The German Tribune

Hamburg, 31 January 1982
Twenty-first Year - No. 1022 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Poland's crucial questions remain unanswered

For weeks the moral standing of entire countries and the sympathy people in them feel toward the Poles have been judged by the volume of their verbal protest.

What an appalling yardstick! As if it were a matter of decibels!

The actual cause of outrage and dismay has vanished in a confusion of special, national interests or party-political squabbles.

What matters most, what is most likely to help the long suffering Polish people, has been forgotten entirely.

Initially the question was whether they were likely to benefit from bids to exert pressure on the military government in Warsaw and Big Brother in Moscow via sanctions.

Or were the two Communist capitals felt not to share identical interests, this being why pains should be taken not to force them into closing ranks?

The first question testified to a sound moral response. Where human rights are trampled under foot, especially when the victims are friends, one must do all one can to help.

The second was based on the realisation that pressure and sanctions do not as a rule achieve very much, whereas maintaining contact might accomplish more.

An attempt to stress common interests and theereby to accelerate the restoration of a normal state of affairs might conceivably achieve more than breaking off all ties and reverting to cold war.

Is this the dilemma of a choice between human rights and pragmatism? Sociologist Max Weber characterised it is a choice between what he called *Gesinnungsethik* and *Verantwortungsethik*, the ethics, respectively, of viewpoint and responsibility.

The ethics of viewpoint entail an automatic response to a breach of human rights, as automatic as the fire brigade turning out for an emergency call.

The ethics of responsibility call for suitability of means to be checked, for a sense of proportion to be maintained and for the likely outcome to be considered.

The one cannot be said to be more moral than the other. The former, pointing proudly to his clean record, may well wreak far more havoc than the latter, who takes on himself the odium of acting morally, but indirectly, not directly.

One may well differ as to who has done more harm in history, the idealist or the pragmatist. In politics a certain amount of pragmatism is certainly indispensable.

That is not to say that politics can dispense with morality. Politics without morality leads straight to opportunism and cynicism and the decline of society and state.

In Poland's case President Reagan chose to respond with the volume switch turned up full. He had an embargo slapped on food supplies and sanctions imposed on the Soviet Union too.

He said he had been sorely tempted to call on the Poles to offer resistance, this comment testifying to great human sympathy and scant political acumen.

One wonders what he would have done if the Poles had resigned from the Warsaw Pact, which would inevitably have led to destabilisation of the world balance of power.

This would have been something the Russians would never have tolerated. It would have meant war and, as in 1944, Warsaw would have been destroyed and the elite of the Polish people sacrificed again.

The French, whose reaction was similar to that of the Americans, proudly noted how many people had come on to the streets to demonstrate in support of Poland. They add with an undertone of reproach that in Germany, where 300,000 attended a Bonn peace rally last October, only 10,000 protest-marched for Poland.

The Germans have a hard time of it. First they were suspected of neutralism because of their peace rallies. Now they are sending parcels rather than taking to the streets, people are not satisfied either.

There have indeed been no vociferous demonstrations in the Federal Republic of Germany, but food and clothing parcels for Poland are being packed in schools, church halls and private homes everywhere.

Ten thousand parcels a day are sent to Poland, and private donations have already totalled roughly DM100m.

Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher have so far successfully resisted pressure to impose sanctions because, they say, they are ineffective and merely poison the atmosphere.

George Ball, a former US Under-Secretary of State, compared the effect of sanctions on Russia with that of thumbtacks pinned into an elephant's hide.

Oddly enough, no US President seems capable of learning from his predecessors that a total embargo just cannot be kept up.

After the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956 President Eisenhower broke off all ties with the Russians. He was forced to resume relations only a few months later. In 1968, after the Warsaw Pact invasion of Chechoslovakia, President Johnson cancelled a visit to Leningrad for the inaugural round of Salt talks.

Within a year relations were back to normal and the policy of detente had been launched.

President Carter reacted in even stronger terms to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. He broke off ties, launched a boycott of the Moscow Olympics and stopped grain shipments to the Soviet Union.

President Reagan resumed grain shipments because the embargo was doing US farmers more harm than the trouble it was causing the Russians.

So in Mr Reagan's Washington moral responses are clearly ruled against a yardstick of utility.

Outrage at breaches of human rights in Poland, disgraceful though the violations may be, would only really carry conviction if it were accompanied by expressions of dismay at similar offences elsewhere.

But Washington chooses to ignore crimes against humanity in South Africa and Central America, and South Korea was long ignored in this context too.

Helmut Schmidt has come under heavy fire for his rejection of sanctions even though Cardinal Machalski of Cracow and Polish Deputy Premier Barcikowski have stated in a communiqué that economic sanctions would make it more difficult to end the crisis and resume the process of renewal.

Germans who are conversant with Poland's tragic history and a mere 10 years ago could never have imagined Bonn being the only capital where the Poles would seek help are delighted that the Bonn government is not letting loose on the Poles its anger with the Russians.

The Poles have trouble enough as it is, both physical and mental suffering. There can surely not be a single Polish officer who has forgotten the thousands of his comrades liquidated by the NKVD in Katyn.

It remains to be seen how long Bonn can maintain this stand. So far Herr Schmidt has been guided by the attitude of the Vatican, which is probably best able to judge the confused picture emerging from Poland.

Now the military government is pressuring Poles into making declarations of loyalty, purging the Press, radio and TV and arresting more and more people the Church is growing increasingly critical despite partial relaxation of restrictions.

No-one knows what turn events are likely to take next. That is what makes the situation so dangerous: no-one has a concept.

When General Jaruzelski decided to end the developments launched by Solidarity, the free trade union, his detailed planning extended no further than to the imposition of martial law and the arrest of leading intellectuals and trade unionists.

No decision was taken, no consideration even given to when they were to be released, how the economy might be saved from final collapse, what institutions could be reformed and what reforms could be retained.

When Solidarity, in autumn 1980, was pushed by the decline of Party power into the reform process that led to mar-

Continued on page 2



Herr Kohl at Downing Street

Bonn Opposition leader Helmut Kohl (CDU) is welcomed to London by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Herr Kohl, visiting at the invitation of the British Government, was also due to have talks with Foreign Minister Lord Carrington and Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Geoffrey Howe. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Soviet Union and its security: testing Mr Sonnenfeldt's doctrine

One of the tragedies of post-war developments was that the Soviet Union had not succeeded in establishing a natural and organic relationship with the East European countries that formed part of its security sphere.

That was what Helmut Sonnenfeldt, then special advisor to the State Department, said in 1976 at a conference of US ambassadors.

He said the Soviet sphere of influence in Eastern Europe lacked stability, which limited the Soviet Union's ability to reach and abide by reasonable agreements with the West.

"Our policy must thus be to aim at developments that make relations between the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe organic," he said.

This comment in particular came in for trenchant criticism from various quarters once it had been made public. It was criticised because it sought to commit the West to a policy that would make it easier for the Soviet Union to administer its sphere of influence.

So Mr Sonnenfeldt felt obliged to qualify his statement. By an organic relationship between the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union he had meant that Moscow must tolerate the independence, national identity and national aspirations of the countries of Eastern Europe.

His complaint had been that the Soviet Union did not do so and was thus a source of continual instability in Europe.

Given recent events in Europe one is bound to say that Mr Sonnenfeldt's analysis was right in many respects and at least outlined the fundamental problem of East-West ties in Europe.

Ever since the end of the Second World War the West has been prepared to concede that the Soviet Union has security interests in Eastern Europe.

To talk in terms of maintaining a balance of military power in Europe on the basis of the status quo is to do precisely that.

Yet the West has always hoped the Soviet Union might allow changes in its sphere of influence that were more in kepping with the wishes, the national ideals and the European traditions of the peoples of Eastern Europe.

This has invariably been an aim of Western policy. In the long run it alone will make Europe capable of peace.

Basically, what Mr Sonnenfeldt said had long formed part of official policy, although views on it varied considerably in both Europe and America.

In the Helsinki accords the West had, basically, reaffirmed the Soviet Union's security interests, with Nato and the neutrals relating to the status quo in Europe.

At the same time a code of behaviour was agreed of which the West, at least, hoped it would make it possible for the Soviet Union gradually to accept changes in its sphere of influence.

But there soon proved to be extremely close limits to change, partly because the problem referred to by Mr Sonnenfeldt, the Soviet Union's failure to establish organic ties with Eastern Europe, had further intensified as far as Moscow was concerned.

The credibility of the Soviet model, imposed on Eastern Europe after the war by Moscow, increasingly declined, not only among Communists in Western Europe but also in Eastern Europe.

This political debilitation was accompanied by the loss of another means of leadership. The Soviet Union's power of economic integration likewise declined.

The countries of Eastern Europe were progressively less capable of solving their economic problems jointly with the Soviet Union.

Official representatives of the East European countries no longer deny that as time went by more and more economic nationalism came to the fore in the Eastern Bloc.

The Soviet Union itself intensified the problem by advising the Eastern European states to make use of readier access to Western capital markets arising from the policy of detente.

This led to East European countries running up heavy debts in the West. By 1980, according to figures compiled by a British economic research institute, Poland was $21.9bn in debt to the West.

The GDR's Western debts totalled $11.8bn and even Rumania had amassed $9bn, which was the amount Russia too was in the red in hard currency.

All these factors combined led to the course of events in Poland, where the Soviet Union came up against a particularly swift decline of the means normally used by Communist regimes to retain power.

It grew difficult for Moscow to arrive at what might have been termed an ideal solution.

This, in its turn, showed that Russia had not, basically, been able to find ways and means of establishing an organic relationship with Eastern Europe that might have held forth the prospect of alternatives.

Thus at present the military solution has returned to the fore, the argument being that security interests, in the widest sense of the term, need safeguarding. This confronts the West with the old basic problem in a new guise. While not wanting to deny the Soviet Union's right to lay claim to security interests the West cannot back down on minimum standards Moscow must maintain in its ties with Eastern Europe for the sake of peace.

The way in which to transform this requirement into practical politics has been more controversial this time than ever. Seldom have differences of historical and political viewpoint been so clearly outlined.

One idea is that the West might handle the diplomatic and political tasks to which the situation gives rise by means of some kind of division of labour.

Last year Mr Sonnenfeldt himself rejected this proposal as disintegration of the West in all but name.

The aim in Europe, especially Chancellor Schmidt's aim, is to maintain the dialogue on disarmament and arms control with the Soviet Union and to do so at all events, regardless of the political and diplomatic means deployed to improve the situation in Poland.

In keeping with the tenet that detente, if it is to be maintained, must continue to include a military aspect the Chancellor is working on the following assumption.

Provided satisfactory progress on disarmament and arms control is made by the two blocs the feeling of security could be enhanced to such an extent that the Soviet Union might, after all, be willing to take a less serious view of other kinds of security risk in its sphere of influence.

Herr Schmidt sounds confident that a mere firm statement of readiness to persevere with disarmament talks will improve diplomatic opportunities of exerting influence on developments in Poland.

For the time being Bonn and Washington are agreed on this point, but this agreement is not based on convictions genuinely shared.

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has called for an essential overall Western strategy for dealing with the post-Poland situation.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 January 1982)

Poland

Continued from page 1

tial law being imposed, it too lacked a concept.

Corruption, officialdom and poor planning had led to economic stagnation and a shortage of goods of all kinds. The workers began to object.

Without a specific plan of their own they jumped from stone to stone in increasingly fast-flowing waters, as it were.

After setting up Solidarity they first demanded more freedom, then more responsibility, then (in place of the incapacitated Party) control of the economy and the administration and, finally, leadership of society.

The vacuum left behind by the moral collapse of the Party and the increasing pressure of expectations felt by the trade unionists stepped up the pace of the process to such an extent that in the end no-one could control it.

The situation is still much the same, except that the verve of a fresh start that motivated Solidarity and might have led to an economic recovery has given way to deep bitterness and resignation.

The Church and the Army have hitherto been the only institutions still intact. Confidence in the armed forces will now also have taken a knock, one could well imagine.

But what is a Communist state to do in which only the Church is still in running order?

The situation in Poland is extremely dangerous. Anything can happen. That is why caution is called for, not loud voices.

Marion Gräfin Dönhoff

(Die Zeit, 22 January 1982)

Dutch Social Democrat new Euro Assembly head

Finding a successor to as intelligent, determined and impressive a president of the European Assembly as France's Mme Simone Veil was not easy.

It took the 434 Euro-MPs, or those of them who were present at Strasbourg, four rounds of voting to agree on the new man. He is Pieter Dankert, 48, a Dutch Social Democrat.

At first glance he seems a fine choice with his education, dynamism and keenness on Europe, qualities he shares with the men who set up the European Community 25 years ago in Rome.

The part played by the European Assembly must be increased, he says. Its future, its rights and its influence will depend on what its members jointly undertake.

Dankert is sure to send a breath of fresh air round the corridors of Europower. Both the Council of Ministers and the Common Market Commission in Brussels can expect him to tell them to get a move on.

A sprightly Dutch schoolmaster, he won't mince words in pointing out where things have gone wrong. If the worst comes to the worst he will even file a suit for inactivity at the European Court of Justice.

Egon Klepsch, 52, the German Christian Democrat, stood no chance against Dankert as the candidate of the Christian Democratic bloc.

A career European and Europarliamentary party chairman of the Christian Democratic group, he was out of the running because even Britain's Conservatives preferred a Social Democrat.

The Tories refused from the start, when Britain joined the EEC in 1973, to join forces with the Christian Democrats in the European Assembly.

This time there might even have been a merger if only the Christian Democrats had agreed to withdraw Herr Klepsch as their candidate.

Even in their own ranks he was not uncontroversial, being felt to lack political and personal attraction. Hans Katzer, a Christian Democrat and former Bonn Labour Minister, made no bones about his dislike of Herr Klepsch, even while the voting was on.

Britain's Conservative candidate, Sir James Scott-Hopkins, would have been tolerated by the Socialists, but as a result of the trial of strength and the Christian Democrats' insistence on backing Herr Klepsch the Socialist candidate won the running by a majority of 16.

In the 1979 elections to the European Assembly 112 million voters in the Common Market countries voted for a bourgeois, right-of-centre majority. Those days now seem to be over.

Helmut J. Weiand

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 21 January 1982)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. – Distribution Manager: Georgine Picone.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02-14733.

Advertising rates list No 13 – Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted.

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Brandt urges Hesse SPD to steel itself for 'vital election'

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The *Land* election in Hesse is the most important of the four state elections this year, Willy Brandt, SPD chairman, told delegates to the Hesse party congress in Kassel.

Herr Brandt didn't mince words in his address. The election in September would have a bearing on the destiny of the Bonn government.

Brandt urged members "not to go into hiding" because of the SPD's difficult times in the *Land*.

Polls over the past few months have been disastrous for the ruling SPD. If an election were held now, it would get less than 40 per cent of the vote.

This is the sort of atmosphere which dispirited the delegates and fired Brandt into urging them to pull themselves together.

He referred obliquely to the disputes within the party itself in Hesse, saying: "There is quite a bit of resignation and bitterness. But don't let it get you down. Emulate those who are able to take the strain and the doubts."

The Hesse party leader and prime minister, Holger Börner, was picked at the top of the ticket in a secret ballot: 202 of the 250 delegates put him at the top.

The businesslike mood of the congress was shown when Herr Börner referred in his speech to the controversial issue of an additional runway for Frankfurt Airport.



Preparing for battle ... Hesse Prime Minister Holger Börner (centre) and SPD party chief Willy Brandt (right) at the Hesse party congress. At left is Willy Görlach, leader of the party in South Hesse. Meanwhile, (see below left) ... (Photo: dpa)



... Alfred Dregger, leader of the Hesse CDU, is busy preparing his ranks for the Land poll later in the year. (Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

It is an issue which generated high feelings from conservation lists because it involves felling a tract of forest.

The issue reached fever pitch before Christmas with clashes between police and demonstrators at the site, and caused a crisis for the SPD itself.

Herr Börner mentioned the issue, saying that many people had been unable to see the wood for the trees: he meant that the whole affair had obscured real issues.

Delegates who expected a storm of protest were disappointed. They had not come to discuss either the runway or another issue, that of the Biblis C nuclear power station and a processing plant for nuclear waste.

They were solely concerned with getting the party ticket prepared for the election.

The organisers did a good job of preparing the congress and kept discussion to a few brief debates over the positions on the ticket of individual candidates.

Brandt called on his fellow party members to steel themselves for the decisive election in the autumn.

He earned himself considerable applause, but the ovation was not like at previous appearances at Hesse SPD meetings.

In fact, did his statement that the opposing camp that has been giving him a hard time for some years.

His opponents have resisted the temptation of putting their party chairman into a light that would outwardly national SPD was over the hump actually get through to the delegates?

The general mood remained somewhat depressed even when the first internal election results were announced.

Voting by secret ballot, 202 of the 250 delegates put Börner at the top of the ticket.

But then, there was never any question about his making it — not even when the dispute within his party was at its peak last June and when Börner was about to ask for a vote of confidence.

The only open question was how many of his declared opponents would vote against him at the congress. But a majority of 80 per cent is the maximum Börner could have hoped to achieve.

It is also evidence that he still has the support of a broad majority in his party.

Yet he will have to reckon with the reflect the internal situation in the SPD.

Börner himself seemed satisfied.

"If I had cornered more votes I would have had to start asking myself if there was something I did wrong," he told newsmen after the congress.

There are 144 candidates on the ticket. The places immediately below Börner are occupied by the SPD floor leader in Hesse, Horst Winterstein, a trade unionist, and the SPD cabinet members.

The tug-of-war concerned only positions 30 to 40.

The official reason given by the various chapters of the SPD for wanting their candidates in a better position was that this particular candidate had done excellent work and deserved to be placed better.

Many expect performance to deteriorate

What was left unsaid or denied was the fact that all expected the SPD to do worse than in the previous elections, and they might be right at that.

At the moment the SPD holds 50 of the 110 seats in the state assembly.

Opinion polls — but they could of course mean nothing by the autumn — indicate that even 40 seats are not a certainty.

In view of the pessimism, Börner was not successful in instilling courage when, in presenting the draft programme, he said that "we stand a good chance if we can get across what our political aims are and implement them."

But this is exactly where the party has failed in the past months. The CDU opposition and the FDP coalition partner have often enough pointed out that Börner wanted to pursue a sensible policy but was hamstrung by his own party.

On 12 June, when the Hesse Social Democrats will in all likelihood adopt their programme for 1982-1986 at a congress in Wiesbaden, they will have to announce what policy they want to pursue because only five days later the FDP will hold its congress and announce its coalition intentions for the next legislative period.

Rainer Dinges

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 18 January 1982)

Cities face cash crisis, warns Stuttgart mayor

Germany's cities are short of cash. If they are not helped, says Stuttgart mayor Manfred Rommel, trading taxes will have to be raised and municipal projects will be axed.

Herr Rommel, president of the standing conference of German cities (*Städtetag*), told a press conference that Bonn and the *Länder* should help out.

He favours job creation schemes, but only if the cash is available.

It was nonsense to spend money generating jobs on the one hand and, on the other, cutting back on one municipal investment project after another because of insufficient cash.

Job creation schemes would only make sense if cities were given lump sum payments.

Herr Rommel deplored what he called "the deterioration of municipal finances which forces local governments to charge more and provide less."

The proportion of overall tax revenues flowing into municipal coffers has been declining continuously since 1977.

The regrettable result, Rommel said, is that the municipalities have had to cut back on investments.

Last year investments were down three per cent and this year will see a decline of 12 per cent.

In 1983 it will be even worse unless decisive action is taken.

Otherwise, if municipalities are to invest at all next year, they would have no choice but to drastically increase trading taxes, Rommel said.

Since he considers investment cutbacks as damaging to the economy as increases in the trading tax, he suggests different forms of tax increases.

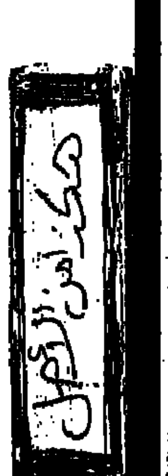
Rommel seized the opportunity provided by the press conference to interpret his previously expressed ideas on the financing of a job generating programme.

Instead of a special levy, he said, it would be better to temporarily raise the income tax for the higher brackets. And since this should not affect business, he suggested that the tax increase be offset by better depreciation provisions.

Little can be done this year, he said, to improve municipal finances.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 January 1982)

Stuttgart mayor Manfred Rommel ... tax increases mooted. (Photo: Sven Simon)



■ THE LAW

Four alleged neo-Nazis face variety of charges including murder

The setting at Stammheim near Stuttgart where four alleged neo-Nazis face various charges, including murder, is outwardly the same as during the Baader-Meinhof trial.

The fortress-like prison with its maximum security tract on the seventh floor and its helipad on the roof is unchanged.

So is the court building, originally intended as a multipurpose structure for the training of ex-prisoners.

Visitors are still frisked. Items like combs, ballpoint pens, lighters, have to be handed over.

Only absolute essentials such as handkerchieves, matches and some loose change for the cigarette machine, can be taken in.

Yet there are fundamental differences. Then there were protest demonstrations outside by Baader-Meinhof sympathisers. Inside defence counsel disrupted proceedings.

Now everything is quiet in the court and the accused and their lawyers act as they are expected to. They are calm, disciplined and cooperative.

Presiding Judge Knospe has no occasion to use his gavel and call for order.

It is as if the four accused want to prove that they come from better backgrounds than their four predecessors who committed suicide in 1977: Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin, Ulrike Meinhof and Jan-Carl Raspe.

Are right wing terrorists more interested in stressing good behaviour than their opposite numbers on the left after committing the same crimes: murder?

Take Manfred Roeder. Wearing a fine Bavarian national dress jacket, his wavy grey hair carefully parted, there is a constant wry smile curling his lips. The eyes behind sparkling glasses are alert.

As he enters the clinically cold courtroom he waves at the small group of his followers, among them his wife, and three junior members of the movement wearing black leather jackets black trousers and shoes of the same colour.

Roeder, 52, a former lawyer and CDU member, has seven previous convictions. He refers to himself as the "Reich Governor" and "German Khomeini".

It was he who headed the "German Action Group" and who is charged with having carried out seven bomb and incendiary attacks between February and August 1980.

One charge relates to an attack in Hamburg on 22 August when two Vietnamese were killed. He is also charged with eight attempted murders in other places.

Roeder has the appearance of an upright citizen straight out of the picture book of German bourgeoisie rather than a bomber and arsonist. Is his a clinical rather than a criminal case?

He started by defacing sex shops.

From there he progressed to holding what he called "Reichstags"; he established his "Reichshof" near Bad Hersfeld where he held thanksgiving celebrations and in his tirades spoke of the Bonn parties as a "snakepit".

He verbally attacked the nuclear power station drive which he termed the "epitome of hostility to the people"; he praised the terrorism of the Baader-Meinhof group whom, he said, he would rather have as his nieghbours in prison



than any policeman; and he made Rudolf Hess' words "I regret nothing" his motto.

In 1978, he went underground, disappearing in America, Iran and Switzerland. It was during that time that he wrote: "Terror must be taken for granted so that things can change at last.

"Terror is the only hope for Germany. Terrorism helps separate those who are willing to serve and make sacrifices for a better Germany." What he meant was Manfred Roeder's Germany.

Now he is answering charges of attempted murder.

Roeder is the only one of the four accused who has consistently kept quiet in court. He wants to enter his miserable concept of history as a martyr: upright and with a smile on his lips as on the first day of the trial.

Raymund Hörnle, 51, a foreman without a previous criminal record, is quite different. He loves nature and, above all, birds. He wears a somewhat festive black suit and matching tie.

He was the first of the four accused to be asked about his personal background on the opening day of the trial.

He did not go along with the stale ideology of his father, an ex-Nazi.

As a member of the metalworkers union he in fact believed in the achievements of socialism.

Then came the day when he could no longer hear his beloved birds singing and went to the yellow pages to find an ear, nose and throat specialist. This is how he came to meet Dr Heinz Colditz; and this is how his career in terrorism began.

At first, patient and doctor casually discussed the "Führer", whose birthday fell around that time.

Later, they talked about the elimination of the Jews and the "lies" about the concentration camps.

Colditz invited Hörnle to his home, gave him neo-Nazi books and brochures, and eventually the two men became close friends.

They made bombs and Molotov cocktails which Hörnle hurled at the Esslingen District Council building which then housed an exhibition on the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Later, he attacked the private home of the district councillor, a home for asylum seekers in Leinfelden-Echterdingen and another one in Lörrach. This was followed by attacks on a school and the refugees' home in Hamburg.

Raymund Hörnle, who was a member of the Flying Hitler Youth during the Third Reich — he joined to escape being drafted into the SS — did not become a Nazi until he met Dr Colditz.

Says he: "It came as a surprise to me when he offered me the familiar 'du'; and I found it embarrassing to listen to his marital problems."

He was given Hitler's *Mein Kampf* to read and eventually became a terrorist — unwittingly and unintentionally.

The hitherto harmless artisan and father of six thus became Roeder's willing stooge in a bloody business — together with Sibylle Vorderbrügge, 26, an assistant radiographer from a sheltered, bourgeois family.

Her father, a well-known doctor, paid for her riding lessons and her training in a Hamburg hospital. There she met Gabriele Colditz and, through her, her father, Dr Heinz Colditz, and his friends — among them Manfred Roeder who was using the doctor's home as a hideout.

The bourgeois "good girl" with the high moral standards who denied her family in favour of "Germany" became the lover of Roeder, successor to the neo-Nazi Dönitz, and the man who wanted to bring about a change in our history — first through inflammatory speeches and later through bombs.

She shared with Roeder — the prosecution says that she was sexually and intellectually dependent on him — not only his bed but his toothbrush as well.

Later, she and Hörnle, who was fascinated by the petite and yet so energetic and fanatical girl, carried out the bombing attacks.

She is said to have been intoxicated by violence.

When finally tracked down in the hideaway she shared with Roeder (an alert motorist had noted the licence plate of her car when he saw her using a spraycan to write the words "Out With Foreigners" on a traffic sign) she is said to have looked attractive.

But the accused Sibylle Vorderbrügge who was escorted to the courtroom from the seventh floor of the Stammheim maximum security tract that had housed Ulrike Meinhof and Gudrun Ensslin looked pale and wan.

Once in a while, when Raymund Hörnle, sitting in front of her, grasps for words, she smiles shyly.

And there is a shyness about her when she furtively glances at her lover in the dock with her.

He never spares her a glance, looking instead to his wife with a friendly and seemingly triumphant air.

What a black society and what a grotesque mixture of people and would-be heros who have become each other's willing tools.

It was chance that brought them together and madness that turned them into criminals. How could they turn into murderers and choose assassination as the instrument of a sick mind — a lawyer, a mechanic, a doctor and an assistant radiographer.

The judge will be unable to come up with an answer.

The day after the trial began marked the 40th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference at which the "final solution of the Jewish question" was decided on. The shock of it still paralyses the conscience. But the four on trial in Stammheim probably still consider this the "biggest joke in world history."

Did they kill in order to erase the memory of that other killing?

Dietrich Strothmann

(Die Zeit, 22 January 1982)

Feeling of 'impotent rage' at Jewish restaurant blast

One person has died and 25 are injured, some seriously, following an explosion in a Jewish restaurant in Berlin. It is not known who planted the bomb.

Another bomb has exploded. Again the Jews were the target. These attacks cause a feeling of impotent rage because they come, time and time again, out of the blue.

It is a bloody ritual of terror. Public reactions also tend to be a ritual.

Some speak of shock and promise that everything will be done to prevent a recurrence.

In this instance it was Berlin's interior senator Lummer who spoke this way.

Other people become upset because politicians don't say enough.

But can any government, no matter how loudly it may talk, achieve any more than simply subdued mourning and sympathy?

Proclamations and strident tones cannot eliminate this sort of violent extremism.

We should beware of raising false hopes, of promising what cannot be delivered.

Naturally, it is hoped that the police catch the terrorists. But they cannot eliminate the roots of the evil.

The police only deal with the symptoms. They cannot change a society that produces an ever new generation of terrorists.

Terror attacks are like a fever: They point to an illness or a social and psychological crisis of the nation.

There are too many people who are dissatisfied and consider themselves threatened by all sorts of dark forces.

Time and again, these people resort to the age-old remedy of finding a scapegoat — invariably a minority, outsiders and pariahs.

It is this that makes up the insidious core of anti-Semitism. And it is this that is behind the latest attack on a Jewish restaurant in Berlin.

The attacker — probably without knowing and without intending to — only enacts what ferments in the collective unconscious.

Naturally, the attacker is a criminal but we must not leave it at that: the attack is always also a critical challenge to the seemingly innocent majority. This applies in particular to the anti-Jewish attacks of the past few years.

Perhaps the terrorists are a few Palestinians. But this would change little. In most cases, it was we who produced the assassins — lately right wing extremists like former lawyer Manfred Roeder, who is now answering charges in Stammheim near Stuttgart. It is useless to look for excuses.

So what must we do? Should we preach and practice penance?

The people — and especially the politicians — find that hard. They prefer to defend themselves self righteously.

Yet much would be gained if the uncertainties and fears of the public were not fueled by rhetoric and exploited through propaganda.

It would help if we tried to diagnose the "ailment" of our era, an era of change, with as much detachment as possible. But this would call for some intellectual effort.

Siegfried v. Kortzfleisch

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 24 January 1982)

■ FINANCE

Plenty of advice from the sidelines on how to create more employment

We are responsible not only for what we do, Lao-tse said, but also for what we fail to do, and this can certainly be applied to economic policy.

To avoid running the risk of being partly to blame for failure to do what is right, one must warn here and now against moves that would be wrong.

Heated debate is in progress about a conventional job-creation programme that would mean higher taxation and even higher government debts.

As yet the men in charge of economic policy, Chancellor Schmidt and his Economic Affairs and Finance Ministers, are on what is fundamentally the right course. They are opposed to the idea.

But pressure is mounting: from part of the Social Democratic parliamentary party and from the trade unions.

The unions are very keen indeed on the government moving in to act; that would help to paper over the mistakes they have made at past rounds of wage talks.

Doing nothing is not going to help, on the other hand. An employment crisis is none too distant and letting matters drift is not going to save the day.

Something must be done, but *what* is done will be what matters. Pundits who continue to think in terms of yesterday's ideas would like to see an economic booster package.

Launched swiftly, it would, they imagine, fast be effective and solve all the problems. But pump-priming no longer has the desired effect.

Just what are the growth prospects of measures of this kind? What point is there, say, in encouraging in the private sector an even greater output of goods no-one will buy — and not because there isn't the purchasing power but because no-one needs the product?

The tale is much the same in the public sector. Hospitals, schools, swimming baths and roads there are in plenty; too many, some would say.

The current idea for pump-priming in this sector is piped heating, for which a grid would doubtless be fine. But piped heating and a few bypass roads are not going to achieve an economic turnround.

Another popular idea is that of hiring even more manpower in the public sector. But this method of boosting employment is definitely the wrong way to go about it.

One must be realistic and bear in mind that given the way the public services are run there can be not the slightest hope of ever recouping a single deutschemark invested.

More public service workers, once hired, can never be sacked, and experience shows that the result is invariably extra red tape, with bureaucrats administering themselves and hampering initiative.

This invariably happens even though, to begin with, some extra public services may seem useful and a welcome addition. The long-term benefit of such schemes is doubtful, and higher taxes to finance them are even more problematic when mistakes cannot be remedied (and they have seldom been put right in the past).

Higher taxes would merely encourage the trend to work on the side: cash on the nail and never mind about the taxman. This parallel economy, so widespread in the industrialised West, is fast exhausting the sources of government revenue and driving law-abiding firms to the wall.

Last year nearly 12,000 companies called in the receiver: a sad post-war record. They went for good as both taxpayers and employers.

So the worst possible option would be to impose further cash and red tape burdens on sectors that account for tax revenue and the national product, such as agriculture, industry, commerce, the trades and services (some of them public).

The exact opposite must be the aim and effect. Productive, creative sectors must be encouraged to do something new, to invest, to expand, to hire new staff. They must not just be rationalised, stymied, administered.

Contrary to what people believe who swear blindfold by the all-powerful influence of the state on the economy, this is the only way to get the country step by step out of the economic predicament into which it has slowly slipped. These steps must be marked by three main yardsticks. First, consideration must be given to costs in an economy that relies on remaining internationally competitive and cannot always expect to be bailed out by the dollar gaining against the deutschemark.

Second, performance must count again. Third, there must be more imagination in goods and services.

All three yardsticks must form part of all ideas on restoring full employment in the long term. Let no-one be misled into believing there is an easier way out.

That is something many did for far too long, with results that are all too apparent.

There could hardly be more damning evidence of inability on the part of a highly-developed industrial society than condemning skilled, hard-working and imaginative people to inactivity.

The situation can only improve by means of a modicum of economic expansion. Even those who condemned growth must how agree that society as it is cannot make ends meet without a two- to three-per-cent real increase in GNP.

What the state must do is to eliminate handicaps to growth, not to increase its own share of the national product.

Not until the annual economic report is published early in February, indicating investment trends, will we see what the prospects are of creating the one million jobs we need.

Widespread indifference does no good, and there are deeper reasons behind the poor innovation showing so evident in so many everyday products and the general dissatisfaction with the concept of performance and growth.

They are connected with doubts whether growth targets are at all right, doubts voiced primarily by public service employees who have job security and few material worries.

Doubts about growth are not exclusively voiced by public service workers or by dropouts and parasites, however, and one can understand people saying, after decades of post-war reconstruction, that there is more to life than work.

But young people in particular seem increasingly keen on self-realisation at the expense of commitments to the community. Productivity suffers as a result, and that is bad.

Many people who still work hard, the silent majority, fail to comprehend and are unable to cope with the reluctance to work of a growing minority.

But this reluctance exists and will exert a growing influence on economic

Continued on page 6

Spending the key to jobs, say dons

Thirty-eight university professors have called on Federal and state governments, the Bundesbank, unions and employers to get cracking on job creation measures.

The dons, all economists, call for encouragement of private investment, higher public investment, lower interest rates, vocational training and more flexible working hours.

Without going into details of either wage policy or how to finance the measures they demand, they advocate wage agreements showing a sense of overall economic responsibility.

Companies are not making handsome profits, so wage increases must not be too high, but consumer demand is already low, so they must not be too low either.

As for financing the measures they recommend, the economists feel the government must inevitably go in for deficit spending, at least in the short term.

With the economy in its present state any attempt to reduce the deficit would be doomed to failure.

"The restrictive effect of pro-cyclical financial policies," they write, "lead via additional spending on unemployment benefits and lower tax revenue to growing budget deficits.

"This is clearly shown by the course of events in the United States and Britain, not to mention recent developments in connection with the Bonn budget."

In the medium term the cost of extra government spending and lower revenue could be recouped mainly from higher tax revenue, they say.

Hans-Jürgen Krupp, head of DIW, the Berlin economic research institute, said he and his colleagues had made their appeal because of the alarming increase in the number of people out of work.

Unemployment was not just seasonally at 1.7m; it seemed likely to average out at over 1.7m for the year as a whole.

It was due not only to external influences, such as the two rounds of oil price increases, but also, increasingly, to a misjudged domestic economic policy response to these challenges.

One was the Bundesbank's money policy, another the public spending cuts since autumn 1980, which had intensified the general economic downturn, said Professor Krupp.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 January 1982)

THE THIRD WORLD

Isolating the scapegoats (if any) behind faults in development aid policies

A favourite reason offered to explain why development aid policies are not as successful as they should be is that the man-in-the-street is ignorant about them.

This man-in-the-street is often said to be unaware about many things.

He is both a stumbling block and a scapegoat for policy makers.

Workers and their unions have allegedly resisted all attempts at enlightenment on the issue of development aid.

And this enlightenment is necessary, say the politicians, before a political breakthrough can be made.

Huge amounts of time and money are spent on information campaigns.

The campaigns are often quite professionally organised, although the growing complexity of the subject is a handicap. Before examining the validity of their claims against our man-in-the-street, I would make the following observations about development aid:

The North-South problem was once reduced fairly simply to a matter of pure development aid.

Since then, it has been realised that a financial breakthrough can only be achieved when less money is spent on arms.

Industrialisation is no longer regarded as the cure-all for famine and repression.

A wider range of answers is today being sought.

It is not only the socio-cultural dimension that prevents the public from understanding much about development aid.

The ecological compatibility of development efforts and existing conditions is increasingly becoming an issue.

An information campaign has been running in this country for 20 years.

Despite this no breakthrough has been achieved in reaching those sections of the population that have always opposed development aid.

Why is it that such campaigns only reach the converted? Or at least those interested in the problem?

Why are there so few blue-collar workers or shop assistants in the many groupings and organisations aimed at promoting the Third World?

I would now like to turn the tables and view the matter in an entirely different light.

I have a great deal of respect for the unwavering scepticism and indeed rejection of development aid by this man-in-the-street.

He has retained his unshakeable instinct for justice despite attempts at manipulating him. He sticks to his guns in asserting that development aid does not benefit the poor and that it is frequently wheeler-dealers who profit from it.

Quite intuitively, the man-in-the-street has resisted all attempts to convince him of the opposite.

His instinct enables him to see what's behind the wrapping of the information campaigns and development aid in general which has become so complex that even insiders and the bureaucrats barely understand it.

The see-sawing of official arguments between solidarity, Christian responsibility and contribution towards preserving the peace on the one hand and the safeguarding of raw materials and jobs on the other is not only confusing. It also destroys and confidence that might have existed.

Depending on who is to be addressed in a speech, the arguments as to motivations and objectives change.

The man-in-the-street is not given credit for intelligence and the arguments presented to him are tailor-made to include only the elements politicians think will interest him, like "job security", "raw materials supplies" and "future markets".

Naturally, basic needs are also mentioned; but this is mostly done when the audience to be addressed is "intellectually of a higher level".

The list of these pigeon-holed arguments could be continued indefinitely; and of course, when the audience consists of so-called progressive groups an entirely different bundle is presented.

The complexity of public sector development aid is reflected in the media.

It will prove extremely difficult to depart from the motivations and the lines of argument presented to the public.

What I want to do is to make use of the unique chance provided by the admission that the public sector development aid policy has proved ineffectual by and large.

One reason for my being grateful for the fact that the justified scepticism towards development aid remains despite all information campaigns is that I pin great hopes on this state of affairs.

More and more people — and North-South action groups are aware of this — realise that it is not only the volume of donations that is rising steeply but the number of people employed in this sector as well.

In keeping with the realisation that development is too important to leave it to governments alone, it has become obvious that there is a willingness to show solidarity across national frontiers.

It would be a calumny to say that workers and their unions are unwilling to show such a solidarity.

Even if the work of non-government organisations enjoys a somewhat better reputation and despite the fact that not everything governments do in this sector is wrong, what matters is to lend credibility to development policy and so regain the public's faith in it. As things stand:

- We are still the true beneficiaries of development aid;
- We still consider ourselves the "givers" although we are much more takers than givers due to the structure of the world economy;
- We still use development aid as a substitute for policy and so downgrade it to the function of an alibi for not changing structure.
- We still talk of satisfying the basic needs of the poorest while at the same time expecting our exports to developing countries safeguard jobs at home.

But the poorest of the poor don't need our goods. They can neither pay for them nor are they capable of operating them. Only when we actually part with money in favour of the poor can there be a true development process;

- We still use our own yardsticks in promoting industrialisation and training Third World people accordingly;
- We still give more money to those who endorse our own aims in the East-West conflict than to others. We create dependences and use our aid as an instrument of foreign security and economic policy.

This country has been spending DM... a year for development aid. Individ... decisions are made by the Bonn g... vernment. Parliament occasion... debates such issues — listlessly — b... usually after the political decision h... already been made.

Only once there is a broad discussi... among the people of this country on th... aims to be pursued in the North-Sou... conflict and the instruments to be us... will some light be shed on the chaos... demands and justifications, attack an... defence, frustration, aid, profit and th... confusion of objectives.

What we have to overcome is not th... alleged selfishness of the working cla... It is much more important to do aw... with the prejudices intellectuals harbo... against the man-in-the-street.

They talk about the workers, not wi... them. They dispense their knowledge i... small doses, but they do not take th... workers seriously.

Another thing that makes it diffic... to endorse government development a... is the untruthfulness and the huge bu... reaucracy of the machinery.

Criticism is more necessary now tha... it ever was before — no matter how u... desirable in view of the more difficul... framework conditions.

Only fundamental change can resu... in approval by the working class — a... approval that is sorely needed conside... ing the growing misery in the Thir... World. Any continuating of the prese... methods in dealing with the publi... must prove politically disastrous.

Gunther Hillger

(Vorwärts, 14 January 198...)

Continued from page 5

trends. There is no economic policy toolkit that can do anything about it. None works.

An outlook that stifles the inclination to work while intensifying what is expected of life is sure to make problems even more serious.

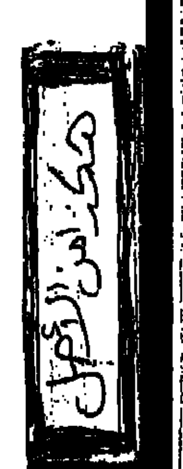
No-one lives for the pleasure of work, but we do live from the proceeds of work, preferably our own. An attitude based on the hope of scrounging on others lies at the root of economic crises.

If it were to gain wider currency we would be rushing headlong into it with our eyes wide open, and to promote the mistaken belief that the government can put matters right is one way of ensuring that it does gain currency.

Unless we call a spade a spade we will be guilty, by a sin of omission, of promoting a decline that need not have occurred.

Franz Thoma

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 January 1982)



Probe reveals huge wastage in EEC-funded projects

Tales of bad planning and inefficiency costing huge amounts of money have been revealed in development aid projects funded by the EEC in Third World countries.

The EEC auditors in their annual report speak of enormous waste in agriculture, construction, health and education and road building.

They say that in all countries they visited projects had been abandoned because of a lack of money, skills and people capable of maintaining and operating them.

Buildings in some instances had been constructed and abandoned before even coming into operation.

The report puts some of the blame on planners for disregarding climatic conditions.

Other causes were poor workmanship and inadequate coordination.

The report hits hard at huge agricultural projects. Some had been designed to boost exports but had the opposite effect.

Many of these farming projects are too big, say the investigating team, and do not suit traditional rural society.

"The way of life and production methods of the people concerned are frequently disregarded or wrongly evaluated," it says.

In Togo and Benin, the EEC financed oil palm plantations, although neither country had sufficient rainfall for palm trees.

The auditors have called for a review of agricultural aid.

Though the report concerns the 1980 EEC budget, it is based on observations made over a longer period.

Less waste was found in urban de... velopment and waterworks and irrig... projects, which "have made a m... contribution towards satisfying b... needs."

But many buildings financed by th... European Development Fund quickl... fall into disrepair.

Some of these buildings, includi... factories, were abandoned only mont... after completion because Europea... standards were applied to constructio...

Such sophisticated installations w... difficult to keep in good repair with th... moderate financial means and expert... available in the Third World.

Frequently, the architecture was co... pletely out of keeping with climatic a... social conditions.

The investigators saw many leaki... roofs, disused kitchens and the like in... buildings which, in some cases, ha... been completed and abandoned.

Among the typical agricultural cas... quoted are four in Zaire. All had bee... in existence for at least ten years b... none operated at a profit.

The Audit Office concludes th... many agricultural projects have only... limited effect on regional and nation... development.

They frequently result in insecu... jobs, the turning of peasants into wor... ing-class poor.

In terms of foreign trade, these pro... jects have a limited or negative effect o... the balance of payments.

Wilhelm Hadler

(Die Welt, 11 January 198...)

BUSINESS

A new wine that gives headaches, but to rival firms, not the drinker

The packers at the Waltari Hof in Edenkoben, Palatinate, have been working overtime ever since winegrower Werner Walter, 54, invented a method of making wine without sulphur.

Sulphur has always been regarded as essential in wine making.

It took Werner Walter 20 years of tinkering before his breakthrough. But now he can barely cope with orders for his "biological wine".

The yield of his 25-acre vineyard, which has been owned by his family for the past 400 years, falls far short of demand for the Waltari wine, which can be drunk in any quantity without fear of a hangover the next day.

Since 1978, when Herr Walter applied for a patent for his method of making and storing wine without sulphur or any other additives, demand has skyrocketed to the point where he had to start looking for partners who would make these dry wines with his methods and under his supervision.

Waltari wines now stem not only from Edenkoben and environs but also from many other Palatinate wine growing areas such as Kallstadt and Deidesheim. They also come from Alsace, Southern Tyrol, Austria and Hungary.

Contracts with Swiss and Hungarian producers are to become effective next year.

In fact, only 10 per cent of the wine sold by Werner Walter is made from grapes grown in his own vineyard.

Since the dispatch can no longer be handled on his modest premises, he has taken a partner and founded the Waltari Weinkellerei GmbH, which has been running since 1980.

The success of this biological wine has given official winegrowers' organisations considerable headaches.

Herr Walter points out in his brochures that the 1971 German Wine Act permits up to 300 milligrammes of sulphur compounds per litre as a preservative, as a clarifying agent, and set a better taste, and that some two dozen other chemicals are also permissible under the law.

Legal challenge goes to appeal court

He also draws attention to the fact that the tolerance level for sulphur dioxide (SO_2) prescribed by the World Health Organisation is only 20 milligrammes per day.

Winegrowers' organisations are worried that, should the patent application be approved, the growing demand for biological wine might force them to become licences.

One organisation had taken the matter to court, arguing that the making of sulphurless wine is not new and that the process can therefore not be patented.

The Federal Patent Court in Munich ruled against the organisation. Like winegrower Walter, the judges asked themselves why the method has never been used if it is so well known.

But an appeal has been lodged and a ruling is due.

No matter how the case ends, it will have no bearing on the Waltari Hof success story.

Last year saw the first shipments of biological wine to the United States; and although exports are not a major item in the Waltari balance sheet, there is a big demand from many industrial countries.

Herr Walter is able to convince sceptics among his commercial opponents that his wines are among the best simply by giving them some.

It took Walter a great deal of effort before his biological wine could be stored like any other wine.

Wine without sulphur additives is like a cut apple: it tends to discolour under the influence of oxygen.

So Walter joined forces with a manufacturer of bottling machines and developed a machine that bottles the wine so that no contact is made with air.

A proud Werner Walter: "This is the only machine of its kind in the world."

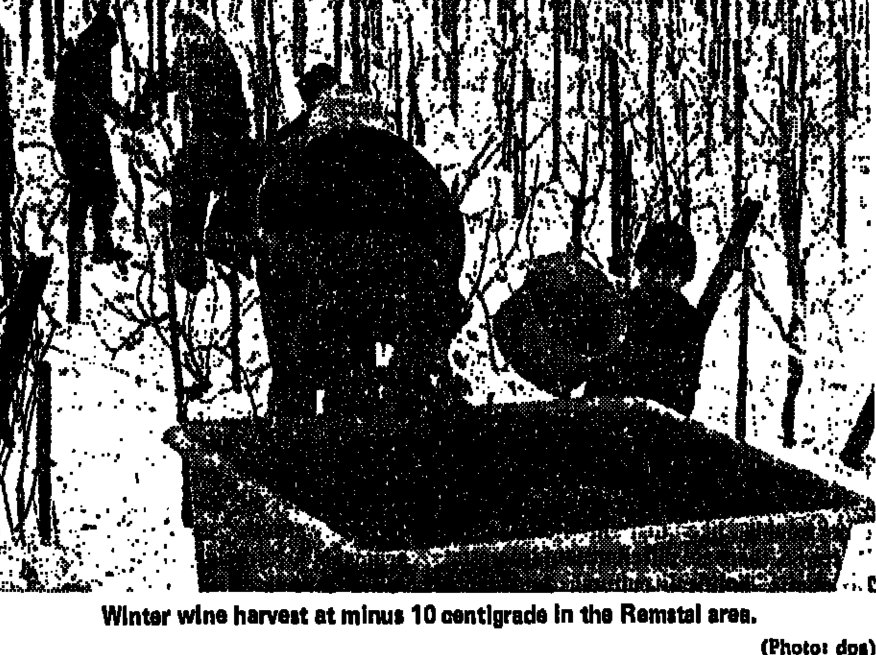
The bottles are sterilised with ozone and filled with nitrogen. The gas is later displaced by the wine. The gas is later displaced by the wine. Nitrogen also surrounds the already filled bottles until they are safely corked.

In the end, the bottles, which are specially made for this wine, are given a metal cap to prevent oxygen from entering even after long storage.

This enables Walter to guarantee indefinite storage.

He has also solved another long-term problem. Opened wine used to change due to exposure to air. Now, Waltari wine is guaranteed to remain in prime condition "at least from Friday to Monday."

The secret of sulphurless wine lies in the controlled temperature during fermentation.



Winter wine harvest at minus 10 centigrade in the Remstal area.

(Photo: dpa)

Keeping an eye on fermentation

A special yeast he makes himself is used.

At least once a week he shows up in the cellars of his subcontractors to check fermentation.

Once the wine is ready, road tankers take it to Edenkoben to be bottled by the special machine.

He supervises the operation, but hopes eventually to put the process under the control of a computer.

His wine, now stocked by the nation's top restaurants, is also grown without chemicals. He uses natural manure and natural insecticides.

"Vines have become so vulnerable to pests because they are given too much chemical help," he says.

He is convinced that smaller per acre yields can be offset by the higher price wine drinkers are prepared to pay for unadulterated drinking pleasure.

Claus Donath

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 January 1982)

It's the smell that counts in this factory

The factory, part of the Bayer-Leverkusen concern, looks just like any other chemicals factory. But the nose knows better.

The loveliest of scents envelop the visitor to the research area of the perfume factory Haarmann & Reimer (H & R) in Holzminden.

Here, like a king in the realm of scents, resides the company's senior perfumer, Dieter W. Klemme.

"Perfumer" is not a recognised profession in Germany and there is no government approved training course.

Yet he is the backbone of the scent and aroma industry, and his after-tax salary is commensurate: DM60,000 to DM100,000 a year.

The tool of his trade is his nose, though "there must be a certain talent. The most important thing, however, is training and practice thing, before you are a true perfumer and know by heart the 1,200 basic substances you have to work with," says Klemme.

There is no such thing as a training course for a perfumer; but those who have trained in chemistry or pharmaceuticals are at an advantage.

It takes between five and seven years before a perfumer can convert his "creative ideas" into compositions that will sell. To start with, six to eight scents are combined to form a "scent chord." This then serves as a basis for further experimenting that eventually leads to an entirely new composition.

H & R develop about 800 to 1,000 compositions a year. Some of them do not last long, but others become perennials, and are occasionally modified and improved.

The company supplies its scents to

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

perfume makers by the kilo, to soap and shampoo factories by the hundredweight and to the chemicals industry (for use as camouflage for the unpleasant smell of certain plastics) by the ton.

Holzminden scents cost between DM800 and DM1,200 per kilo and serve as the basic material for world famous perfumes made in Paris or New York.

The 1,200 basic substances form the keys of a "scent organ": a shelf containing 1,200 tiny vials.

Some scents tend to "die" — primarily natural scents.

Some 800 "natural scents" are synthetic. They are made in a test tube. But nature still provides 400 of the scent organ keys — some of them extremely rare and costly.

For instance civet. This is obtained from the civet cat whose anal glands open under the tail into a large pouch in which a greasy, musklike secretion accumulates. It is this secretion that is milked and used in the scent industry.

A kilo of raw civet is traded at about DM16,000. Traces of it are used in the manufacture of perfumes. Incidentally, the scent of civet can only be smelled in compositions.

Another animal substance is ambergris which is formed in the intestines of sperm whales. Ambergris adds "warmth" to a composition — at a price. It costs DM40,000 a kilo.

Only 15 years ago, when sperm whales were still around in numbers, ambergris was traded at one-fifth its present price. Though there are some synthetic ambergris scents on the market, Klemme says that they can instantly be recognised.

The most expensive substance used by H & R is musk from the musk deer which sells for DM90,000 a kilo.

But the world's flora are still the most prolific provider of scents in the form of essential oils distilled from flowers, leaves, roots, bark etc.

H & R was founded in 1874 when the chemist Haarmann teamed up with Chemistry Professor Tiemann to distil vanillin (usually made from vanilla pods) from local coniferous trees. This was the beginning of the scent industry.

Ever since, H & R has gone from strength to strength, particularly after Bayer bought it in 1954 and shifted its scent research to Holzminden.

Today, the company employs 21 perfumers and 40 chemists — a necessity because nature has been exploited to the point where synthetic scents are essential.

Josef Schmidt

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 2 January 1982)

■ INTERVIEW

How US envoy Burns sees trends in international affairs

Arthur F. Burns has been US ambassador to Bonn since last June. A noted economist at the helm of the Federal Reserve for many years, Mr Burns remains an adviser in close touch with the Reagan administration. He recently hit the headlines with a speech in which he suggested the United States might pull its troops out of Europe if they were no longer welcome. On this and other issues he is here interviewed by *Roland Krönke*, of *Vorwärts*, the Bonn weekly newspaper of Chancellor Schmidt's Social Democratic Party, the SPD. This text is from the original English, courtesy of the US Embassy in Bonn.

Question: The German government has been sharply criticised by important parts of American public opinion for its so-called go-slow response to the crisis in Poland. Do you think this wave of criticism is characteristic of the general mood at the moment?

Answer: Well I think there's been a good deal of criticism of the position taken by the German government with regard to the Polish crisis in the United States and American newspapers, yes, and a surprising amount of criticism (surprising to me), a great deal of criticism of the German government in newspapers in this country.

And which has been more critical I don't know. In other words the German government has been criticised recently by newspapers in both of our countries.

Q: *But is this representative of a general discontent of the American public with German policy?*

A: I can't speak for the American public. Most Americans really have very little understanding of foreign affairs. But I think that the more thoughful members of the public have become somewhat critical of German attitudes towards the Soviet Union, towards certain military problems we have in Nato. They are more critical than they used to be.

Q: What are the reasons for this criticism? Do you think that the German reason for this response, for this modified or cautious response, are properly understood and explained in the United States?

A: Probably not. Probably not. And there are differences of opinion within Germany itself and the German government. And German thinking on the subject of responding to the Polish crisis has been evolving, and it's different today than what it was even two weeks ago, or a month ago.

The German opinion has been changed. The opinion of the German government, the attitude has been changing, definitely. It's come much closer to the American attitudes.

Q: Are you happier with the evolution or result this week than you were, maybe, two weeks ago?

A: Yes, yes I definitely am.

Q: Did you for a minute think that Chancellor Schmidt was going neutralist, as had been implied?

A: No. No, I've known the Chancellor for many years, and know him well, and neutralism is no part of his thinking. Utterly impossible for him. That's not entirely true of your party, but you are asking me about the Chancellor.

Q: Are the frictions between Bonn and Washington caused by misunderstanding or by substantial differences of interest?

A: I think there is some of each. There is some misunderstanding and there are differences of interest. For example, the trade with the Soviet bloc is vastly more important to the Federal Republic than it is to the United States.

Also the Soviets are geographically a little closer to the Federal Republic than they are to the United States.

And, *also, Germany is a divided* nation, and a substantial number of Germans are living in a communist country at the present time, and that means broken families.

And a certain degree of harmony, communications, dialogue, friendship with the German Democratic Republic is important to the German people, so that members of families can communicate and get together. We don't have any trouble like that in the United States. So, there are differences of interests: economic, political, cultural. And there is also misunderstanding. There is always misunderstanding with human beings.

Q: How serious are those differences of interest between the two states?

A: I don't think they are fundamental at all. I think that the forces and the interests that we have in common, we in the United States with the Federal Republic, are far more important than these differences of interest.

But it's a matter of interpretation going from day to day, and sometimes these special interests are exaggerated when they are important; that happens in human affairs.

Q: In a recent speech you said American troops will not stay in Europe if they are not welcome any longer. Has the point been reached where this pull-back of troops is really seriously being considered?

A: I don't think so, but I think it is useful to look ahead. Such a point might be reached. And one of my purposes was to speak honestly to the German people and to the American people and to indicate that there is such a danger, and that we ought to take steps to prevent any such danger from occurring.

Q: What would happen if a new Mansfield resolution were introduced in Congress at this moment?

A: I don't like to think about that. I think it would be defeated. But I'd rather not see the experiment tried.

The influence of the isolationists

Q: Sir, doesn't the United States have interests of its own in keeping troops here?

A: Of course we have. We wouldn't be keeping them here if we didn't have strong independent reasons.

Q: And wouldn't a pull-back also violate existing treaties, and would you go out of the Federal Republic and stay in Berlin? This would be really complicated, wouldn't it?

A: It would not only be complicated; it would be a disaster from the viewpoint of the entire free world. And our duty as Americans, as Germans, as Europeans is to prevent that disaster from occurring.

Q: But since you think it might be possible, this would indicate that a certain segment of the American public is thinking in this way, is turning away from Europe. A: Well, a certain segment has always been isolationist and isolationism has been beneath the surface in my country for *as long as I can remember*. In fact it goes back to the earliest days of our republic. You may possibly recall, and if you don't you may be interested in knowing, that George Washington in his farewell address warned us against foreign complications. So it's always been a part of the American thinking, but it is only a small segment of American opinion at the present time. But there are signs of dissatisfaction with Europe and the signs are beginning to multiply, and they are multiplying a little disturbingly in the American Congress. And that is one major reason why I made this speech and expressed the views that I did.



Arthur F. Burns . . . 'I believe in skills and competence rather than ideologies and schools.' (Photo: Sven Simon)

Q: Could this lead to a situation in which America looks more towards Asia than towards Europe?

A: Well I think it is very unlikely, but if you say: may it, could it, — in this strange and curious world of ours a lot of strange things could happen. You're a young man and over your lifetime some very strange things could happen.

Q: Turning to the second problem area of American-German relations, Chancellor Schmidt has repeatedly criticised the economic policy of President Reagan.

What is your opinion of the development of the American economy? Will we continue to have high interest rates?

A: That is uncertain. Much depends on decisions that President Reagan is considering at the present time and that he has not yet made.

Now, if we have very large deficits in our Federal budget, which would happen in the absence of new government policies, I think we would continue to have high interest rates. And I think high interest rates would make genuine prosperity in the United States impossible.

We have very high interest rates on home mortgages and interest rates on corporate bonds. If anything like the present levels continue we will not have the volume of building activity, we will not have the business investment in fixed capital that American needs if it is to enjoy prosperity.

So the answer to your question will be supplied within just a few days. And I don't mind telling you where I stand. I think the American budget deficit must be sharply reduced.

Q: How would you denote your position? Are you a monetarist?

A: I like to think of myself as being a reasonable, reasonably competent economist. There I would stop.

Q: You would not include yourself in any schools?

A: I don't believe in schools. I believe in skills and competence rather than ideologies and schools.

Q: The German debate has always, now more than in the past, included talk of the two superpowers putting the United States and Russia on the same level. How does this affect you as the US ambassador?

A: Well, I'm not emotional about it. There are two superpowers in the world.

It's a fact. And when Germans and Americans speak of it, they are simply referring to a fact of the world as it exists.

But sometimes — sometimes — I hear Germans, not too many, I'm glad to say, speak of the two superpowers in the same sense.

You have two superpowers, each belligerent, each is imperialistic, each has no interest in human rights, each has no interest in Europe.

When you equate these two superpowers, as some Germans do, I find that mystifying. How can intelligent people, and Germans are very intelligent people, how can some Germans think in those terms? I find that mystifying. But they are very few, I'm glad to say.

And I have said many times since coming to Germany and becoming acquainted, or more acquainted (I've known your country for many years), I've said many times that there are a few anti-Americans in Germany, there is little anti-Americanism in Germany, and that even those who are anti-American (and there some, of course) are not necessarily pro-Soviet.

And, beyond that, I would say that the Germans fundamentally like Americans and the Americans like Germans. We understand one another moderately well.

But we also succeed in misunderstanding one another, now and then, and I hope less frequently in the future.

(Vorwärts, 21 January 1982)

■ MOTORING

Car stickers the successor to suitcase labels and the old school tie



At first glance the exhibition at the Industrial Design Centre in Essen looks like a Volkswagen spare parts storeroom.

There is one long row of VW Beetle bonnets, but with a difference: all display car stickers.

Most cars do these days, proclaiming that their owners abhor atomic energy or Franz Josef Strauss, or that they are supporters of the Social Democrats (SPD) or their local Bundesliga soccer club.

Stickers tell the world where motorists spent their last holidays, what brand of jeans they wear, which cigarette they smoke.

Alternatively, the man or woman in the car behind may be enjoined to think in terms of environmental protection or to abide by the highway code.

One of the few items of information that is probably not to be gleaned from a car sticker is that 150 million stickers a year are printed in the Federal Republic of Germany, which makes Germany the world's leading sticker consumer.

So it was probably high time for a closer and more critical scrutiny of the subject, and the Essen design centre was arguably predestined to commission it.



Since 1980 Essen has held a succession of exhibitions of mass, anonymous design. Previous shows have dealt with plastic carrier bags and street nameplates. Now it is stickers.

The sticker in history can be said to owe its origins to the desire to impress and to delight in bright colours.

Predecessors of the current spate included the hotel stickers that used to adorn travellers' suitcases and trunks in the 19th century.

Surviving well into our own century, they were intended strictly to impress, conveying the impression that the owner *always* stayed at the Ritz.

The other tradition is exemplified by lick-on transfers we all used to play with as kids (but which soon tore or were cracked).

Not until plastic swept all before it were stickers as we know them here to stay. They are fairly expensive to make, being screen-printed on PVC with contact glue on the back.

They came into their own in 1967 when Esso launched the slogan: "Put a Tiger in your Tank." Hundreds of thousands of motorists adorned their car bumpers with the effigy of the genial Esso tiger.

In the early 70s political parties realised that people were more likely to stick stickers on their car than to tape posters to their bedroom windows. In the mid-70s the advertising industry followed suit wholesale even though advertisers have yet to decide whether stickers are value for money. But the public are crazy about them. From anarchists to staunch Catholics or Protestants, from one end of the party-political spectrum to the other there are stickers to suit all tastes, and no lack of stickers to stick them! The advertising industry was late to join the fray but is now clearly in the lead in the fight for space on motorists' bumpers and rear windscreens.



Tastes for all . . . stickers say that you are the member of a group, whether it is peace marchers, anti-nuclear campaigners or whisky drinkers. Debate is reduced to a slogan, political debate to a war of stickers. (Photos: Franz Strauch)

Free stickers distributed by one government agency or another, by oil companies, motor manufacturers, food and drink firms, bars and restaurants, banks and local authorities, sports clubs and political parties are the rule.

Stickers you pay for (and they can cost up to DM10) are the exception.

One of the oddities of advertising is that people who are normally just passive consumers are transformed by the offer of a free sticker into enthusiastic advertisers (free of charge) on four wheels.

But the study of stickers is still in its early days. There is no literature on the subject, let alone serious research findings.

All that can be said with any certainty is that everyone agrees stickers are stuck by people who want to stand out in a crowd.

At the same time they proclaim membership of a group. It is comforting to feel you are one of many anti-nuclear campaigners, peace marchers, whisky drinkers, savings bank customers or friends of Bonn.

In this respect stickers clearly perform the same role as blazer badges, old school ties or the pin-on variety of lapel badge.

But what do you feel like when you label yourself (or your car)? No-one seems to know for sure. It is obviously some kind of identification mechanism.

This makes sense if you are proclaiming support for a sports club or a political party or providing your home town or the area where you spent your last holiday with a few free square inches of publicity.

It is equally understandable for people to own up to their political views. But why advertise some commercial product or other? To show you have exquisite taste, maybe?

Presumably gun freaks rather than the arms lobby stick stickers of Leopard 2 tanks or field howitzers on the back of their cars.

But why should anyone want to advertise for artificial insemination of cattle? Why? You'd just have to get out and ask the driver in front.

At a press conference held to mark the opening of the Essen exhibition a spokesman for a manufacturer of stickers said sticking (and presumably unsticking) them was fun.

It was an act of change, a kind of primitive creativity. This claim did not go undisputed but is worth considering, providing the attribute primitive is replaced by, say, stultified.

A design centre leaflet brightly says stickers mean more information: "Stickers tell you what political party or product is preferred by the man in front, where he goes on holiday and what sport he goes in for.

"If you want to, you can use the sticker and its message as a means of striking up a conversation with him."

The reality is somewhat different. The man in front is sheet metal and plate glass away, and striking up a conversation with another motorist is more or less impossible.

Besides, how do I know he wants to hold a conversation with me? He probably has nothing of the sort in mind.

A likelier assumption, although strictly the writer's own, is that the sticker forms part of a speechless society. What I mean is most readily apparent from sticker slogans of a political nature.

Like spray-can graffiti, sticker slogans have much in common with the advertising variety. They state a case, make a point, but it is a bald statement, not an argument.

The sticker performs in public, as it were, what the greetings card does in private. It makes a mass-produced point that relieves the individual of the need to express his own ideas, if any, in words.

Both testify to an increasing compartmentalisation and abandonment of parts of one's own life to experts of one kind or another. They are varieties of an alienation Marx would never have dreamt of.

Creatively is reduced to sticking a sticker. Debate is reduced to slogans. To escape the anonymity of the mass we don group uniforms.

Political debate is reduced to a war of stickers. "Nuclear power? No thanks!" proclaims the one, "Stone Age? No thanks!" the other.

Two very popular sticker slogans indicate that professed opinions may be no more than an alibi. They are *Ich bin Energiesparer* (I'm an energy-saver) and *Ein Herz für Kinder* (A heart for children).

On average 10 per cent at most of a print run of stickers actually get stuck on cars. Both these slogans were printed in sticker runs of well over 15 million, and about half were displayed.

But did they prove anything? Many an energy-saver can be seen driving at full pelt along the autobahn, and as for the millions who claim to have a heart for children, least said soonest mended.

Ekkehard Böhm

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 January 1982)

Traffic information as you drive – by computer

Mannheimer MORGEN

Motorists have given overwhelming approval to a system of providing traffic information through a computer terminal linked to vehicles.

Eighty per cent of 400 motorists who took part in an experiment in the Ruhr project gave it the thumbs up.

However, it will probably be too expensive to introduce widely.

Vehicles involved in the project were fitted with dashboard terminals and monitor screen.

Information about traffic jams and road conditions in the control area, between Recklinghausen and Dortmund were, at the driver's request, flashed on to the screen.

In addition to ice and fog warnings, motorists can also dial for the shortest route to their destinations. Directions based on up-to-the-minute road reports are flashed on to the monitor screen.

Results of the experiment have been outlined at a Dortmund press conference by the companies associated with the scheme.

Motorists were satisfied with their computer routes, although they thought data abuse was a potential difficulty.

One driver said that the control centre knew where he was at any given time.

Experts say technical solutions could be found to this problem.

But computerised motoring is unlikely to be launched countrywide in the near future. The infrastructure is too costly. Fitting out cars would cost about DM500 each. And the autobahn network would cost roughly DM450m, according to a spokesman for the Bonn Transport Ministry. *dpa*

(Mannheimer Morgen, 15 January 1982)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Forest damage at centre of autobahn protests

Ice and snow have chilled what promised to be the latest hot spot in West Berlin: trees to be axed in the Tegel Forest to make way for a link road to the new autobahn through the GDR to Hamburg and the north.

On the freezing Friday woodmen started felling the trees, protest was subdued and there was little violence, just a few hundred demonstrators in the snow-clad woods.

Two days later, on a Sunday, 2,300 people turned up to protest, but most were as peaceful as they were frozen to the marrow.

Demonstrators blockaded a few cross-roads, including city-centre junctions, and 20 protesters created a scene in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, a landmark of the city at the beginning of the Kurfürstendamm.

On the Monday evening about 1,000 demonstrations marched through the city centre. They burnt a few Christmas trees put out at the side of the road and threw a few firecrackers. But that was all.

Agreement was reached with the GDR in 1978 on a new Berlin-Hamburg autobahn. Bonn is to pay DM1.2bn towards construction costs.

The new road link is important for all West Berliners. The interests of people who live in what have so far been quiet suburbs such as Tegel and Heiligensee on the outskirts of the city must take second place.

The GDR is sure to fulfil its part of the agreement and open its new border post on the link road to the Hamburg autobahn on 20 November 1982.

It would be ludicrous if West Berlin were not to have its section of link road and its border post ready in time.

The city's Christian Democratic Senate, led by Governing Mayor Richard von Weizsäcker, has adopted a tried and trusted approach to the entire link road issue.

On controversial subjects the CDU has made a point of meeting objections half-way, going as far as it could in this direction, then insisting on going ahead with the comprise reached.

In this instance the Senator for Housing and Public Works, who had been authorised since the beginning of December by the city council to go ahead and fell the trees, chose to wait.

He waited until the administrative court had ruled on applications by opponents of the link road for an injunction against it. The court ruled against an injunction, saying the road was in the wider public interest.

As soon as the court had given its ruling the order was given not only to start felling trees; for the first time ever the city's police chief banned the wearing of camouflage and helmets at demonstrations in connection with the work.

Camouflage in this context means the wearing of scarves and headgear that cover the face, while the helmets some demonstrators have taken to wearing are officially termed "passive armament."

Agreement has yet to be reached nationwide on this controversial ban affecting demonstrators and protest marchers. But in Berlin it was imposed in accordance with a local bye-law.

And that was that. Only a handful of demonstrators wore camouflage, so few that the police decided to ignore them.

Only a few demonstrators were taken in custody, and only temporarily. So Berlin seems unwittingly to have set a precedent for the ban on wearing camouflage.

Protests were lodged only by the Alternative List, an environmentalist group in the city council, who objected to this inroad into the right of assembly.

But, as many might be tempted to add, the Alternative List are always up in arms about one thing or the other.

It is a great pity about the Tegel Forest, probably one of the finest in the city, and a crying shame to run a busy autobahn link road through its unspoilt natural beauty.

But the road will cater first for motorists visiting the GDR, then from 1984 for all traffic to and from Hamburg and the north.

The old road cannot possibly handle all those cars, so a new one is to be built alongside it with a link road about one kilometre long cutting through the northern tip of the Tegel Forest to the border crossing point.

This section through the forest is what is initially at stake. It will mean the axe for 1,600 trees, 600 of them fine old wood.

Opponents of the link road through the forest have paid for expensive half-page newspaper advertisements to state their case against ecological damage and the loss of recreational value.

The trouble and expense, not to mention the alleged damage, could be substantially reduced if only the Senate were to insists on the GDR keeping the old trunk road via Spandau open.

The GDR plans to close the old road to traffic between West Berlin and West Germany in 1984 when the new autobahn is open.

West Berlin would like the old road to stay open in any case, but if the GDR agreed to continue manning the old border crossing it would be sure to demand a small fortune in expenses.

Besides, a wide link road through the Tegel Forest would still need building and the controversy has already reached the stage where ludicrous would be the most appropriate epithet.

The higher administrative court is unlikely to rule before next summer on whether the link road ought to be given planning permission.

At present the court is still dealing with applications by its opponents for an injunction against felling the trees until the final ruling has been given.

The opponents' formal case is that insufficient provision has been made for soundproofing to shield a nearby housing estate from the traffic noise.

The court has found this is not the case and the trees can thus be felled. Otherwise not even a temporary link road could be built in time for the opening of the new border crossing point next November.

After years of vacillation by Herr von Weizsäcker's predecessors, a Senate coalition of Social and Free Democrats, it will cost several million marks in overtime as it is if the makeshift is to be completed in time.

But although trees may now be felled no-one can say for sure whether final planning permission will be granted. The court made this express proviso, saying the Senate might have to plant fresh trees if the case went against it.

No-one seriously expects this to happen now the court has ruled the road is in the wider public interest, but the possibility of such an uproarious outcome cannot entirely be ruled out.

So that is the next problem. West Berlin newspapers have pointed out how grotesque it is that what are obviously political decisions, such as the autobahn and agreements with the GDR, are being left to the courts to decide on.

This is a trend more apparent in Berlin than in most other parts of the country. Maybe it is another point on which the city will make people sit up and think.

Renate Marbach

(Kieler Nachrichten, 13 January 1982)

Salt on winter roads 'will kill off trees'

If salt continues to be spread on winter roads at the present rate not a tree will be left alive in 1990, says a Hanover biologist.

Hans Rolf Höster of Hanover University nature conservation department made this forecast on publication of the findings of a three-year survey of the city's 26,800 roadside trees.

Six out of 10 horse chestnut trees and three out of 10 maple and linden trees were found to be damaged.

"I have personally examined every roadside tree in Hanover," Herr Höster says, "and 3,500 of them can clearly be seen to have suffered from salt."

Until 1960 no salt was spread on roads in the Federal Republic of Germany, only sand, grit or ashes. Drivers drove more carefully.

He feels footpaths and cycle tracks, pedestrian precincts and residential streets should have only sand spread on them in winter.

This would help to prevent trees from dying from to much salt and to stem the tide of salination of ground water and rivers and lakes.

Hagen, Westphalia, is experimenting with a new mixture containing only about 25 per cent salt. Developed and patented by a local company, the mixture is being tried out in Hagen for the first time on a large scale.

It is a combination of calcined dolomite, sand and salt. The dolomite reacts fast to ice and snow, causing them to thaw more quickly.

The sand softens the effect a little, while the salt, a proportion of which remains essential, reduces the freezing point to between minus five and minus 10 degrees centigrade.

Were the mixture to contain no salt at all the snow, once thawed, or as black ice, would promptly freeze over again.

Environmentally the new mixture is much more satisfactory than conventional salt because it makes do with less salt but, as might be expected, it is a little more expensive.

Dolomite mixture costs DM30 per tonne more than ordinary road salt.

dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 January 1982)

■ THE ARTS

Collected letters help build picture of Robert Musil, a literary heavyweight

Robert Musil was one of the four writers mentioned with gratitude by Elias Canetti in the speech he gave on being awarded the 1981 Nobel Prize for literature.

Musil rightly enjoys the reputation of having been one of the foremost writers in German in the 20th century.

His novels included *Die Verwirrungen des Zöglings Törless* (Young Törless), 1906, and *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften* (The Man Without Qualities), begun in 1930 but unfinished when he died on 15 April 1942.

No-one who claims to know anything about the modern novel can afford not to be conversant with Musil.

But he was also a difficult person, detached, mistrustful, hard to pin down to a viewpoint, full of neurotic tendencies to seek safeguards and not unduly given to communication.

To be a really great letter-writer one must either be an erotic genius, like Rilke, or have a gift for friendship, like Hofmannsthal.

Musil had neither. When he addressed anyone as Dear Friend, he once confided, he was angry with him. How were friendships to arise and gain in intensity with the years?

How? There were exceptions, up to a point. There were his ties with Franz Blei and with fellow-student Johannes von Allesch. But neither prompted enough letters to merit separate editions of their correspondence.

In most cases editions of a writer's letters are mere selections, even when, as in Musil's case, his editor is keen to be complete.

Only in exceptionally fortunate circumstances do letters survive to be edited. Some addressees destroy letters even from famous contemporaries as soon as they have been answered.

> Robert Musil: *Briefe* (Letters) *1901-1942*. Edited by Adolf Frisé, with help from Murray G. Hall. Two volumes. Published by Rowohlt 1981.

Much is lost in wartime, in Musil's case everything he left behind in Vienna when he emigrated in 1938. A fair amount is censored by the writer's widow.

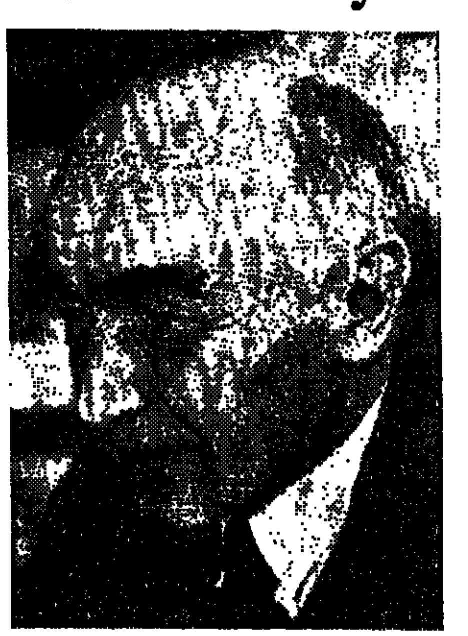
Seldom do a writer's notes survive in such a strange way as the entries from Musil's diary that his wife Martha cut out after he died and sewed into the lining of an overcoat.

Much of his correspondence in his early years and his middle period has vanished. It includes his letters to his parents from cadet's college, his letters to his working-class girlfriend, Hermine Dietz, whom he called Tonka, and his letters to his wife Martha.

Not until these two volumes of letters were at the printer's did Martha Musil's letters to her husband from 1914 to 1916 come to light. Major biographical documents, they were discovered at a Merano antique dealer's.

We owe it to coincidence that the later period of Musil's life is particularly well documented. The notebooks in which he drafted letters written in his last years in Vienna and in Swiss exile have survived.

So it proved fairly easy to track down the letters sent or, if this was impossible, the draft versions could be printed.



Robert Musil . . . problems of cash flow. (Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

Musil's correspondence between 1936 and 1942 thus accounts for about 700 pages, or roughly half the total.

Were this output over a six-year period equalled throughout his 40-year career as a writer, his correspondence would total nearly 5,000 pages.

But as the available material is absorbed chronologically, the overriding impression is that of the late Musil, the *Jammerpepi*, as he called himself.

It was a time when Musil the old groaner had to beg for his supper and was dependent to a large extent on the help of his friends and of charitable organisations.

There were many rumours about his later years, including one that he died of starvation in Geneva. It is very much to the credit of this edition of his letters that it tells the true story.

The Musils may not have led a life of luxury but they were not at death's door either. They "borrowed" $50 here, 100 francs there, and managed to keep going.

In connection with Musil reference has fittingly been made to the social neurosis of the bourgeoisie, the bourgeoisie facing social decline, that is.

Until he was 30 he lived at his parents' expense, an only and demanding child whose traits were very much those of a dandy; he set great store by appearance.

Until he was 45 he was supported by his parents. After they died he lived on advances paid him by Ernst Rowohlt, his publisher.

After publication of The Man Without Qualities, from about 1931 until he emigrated, he managed almost entirely on financial support from the Musil Association, first in Berlin, then in Vienna.

In a wayward display of nobility he sought to keep up upper middle-class standards long after the money that might have enabled him to do so had run out.

He ordered underwear and stockings from Britain and Swirtzerland while his Viennese friends clubbed together to raise what amounted to a small civil service salary for him.

That, then, was the one discrepancy in his life. The other, which he will probably have felt much more keenly, was the prospect of fame in posterity contrasted with current financial straits.

It must have been bitter indeed for a man of Musil's pride to feel sure on the one hand that literary critics and historians would one day pore over his merest scribblings while in his lifetime he had to live on charity.

He was a virtuoso in the instrumentation of his hardship, at times using grotesque imagery to depict his situation.

Circumstances partly explain why The Man Without Qualities was never finished. The writer spent much of his time writing begging letters or letters of thanks.

He also penned letters to the authorities, such as a request to the Geneva power utility to be allowed to use an electric heater after he had taken his bath.

But the constraints imposed by the Swiss Federal police and aliens department and by hard-hearted sponsors were not the only reason why his major work remained incomplete.

There were more than enough personal difficulties and problems arising from the nature of the novel itself. Musil describes them vividly in these letters.

Take this letter to Viktor Zuckerkandl, who worked for Bermann-Fischer Verlag, the publishers, who had emigrated too, from Berlin to Stockholm.

He wrote from Zurich, in a letter dated 1 February 1939:

"*Der Mann o. E.* is not a *Bildungsroman*, or novel of educational development; it tells a tale of intellectual adventure. Education, ideas and intellectual charm can be put across in a more or less pleasant manner; adventure must be fought through.

"No matter how great the detail in which I think out the intellectual aspect in advance, and it is regrettably and inconveniently original, I can only ever tell from the final narrative version what is contestable, what I used without checking it and what is not feasible because there is not enough room in which to undertake it.

"Imagine a suitcase that continually interrupts the person who is trying to pack it and objects that turn out, at the very moment they are put in, to be the opposite of what they were supposed to be. You will then have a rough picture of the position."

No-one who wants to know more about Musil's life and work will be able to ignore this edition of his correspondence.

Adolf Frisé, the editor, spared no effort in collecting and commenting on the letters. At times he had to pass, but only when the self-interest of the letter's owner proved unyielding.

His editorial work can only be criticised in a few minor points, such as the order in which a number of undated letters to an unknown woman is printed, but these are immaterial in the overall context.

This edition of Musil's correspondence, which marks the end, for the time being, of the writer's collected works, could be termed altogether exemplary were it not for the price.

The two volumes cost nearly DM500, which is likely to be prohibitive not only for private buyers but also, in an age of budget cuts, for many a public library.

Karl Corino

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 January 1982)

Hagelstange, writer with an Olympic connection

Rudolf Hagelstange, the poet and writer, is 70. At his Erbach, Hesse, home he was presented with the star to his Grand Cross of the Federal Order of Merit by Wiesbaden Premier Holger Börner.

Then came a Munich reception held in his honour by the Bavarian Fine Arts Academy at which the List Verlag, his publishers, presented two new books of his.

They were a book of poems entitled *Flaschenpost* (Bottle Post) and a volume of memoirs in essay form entitled *Menschen und Gesichter* (People and Faces).

And Hagelstange has seen plenty in the many countries where he has represented Germany as a literary ambassador. President Sadat invited him to Egypt. He has also toured America, Canada, Brazil and the Far East.

He is a member of the German Academy of Language and Literature as well as the Bavarian Academy, and a member of the advisory panel of the Writer's Association.

He is one of few holders of the Olympic diploma for literature, in 1938 having been a member of the German pole-vault squad that was to have competed at the 1940 Olympics.

Born in Nordhausen in the Harz mountains, he tells the tale of his childhood in a collection of stories entitled *Der sächsische Grossvater* (My Saxon Grandfather).



Rudolf Hagelstange . . . roving ambassador. (Photo: Sven Simon)

His 1944 sonnets, The Venetian Credo, made his name after the war. Karl Krolow called them one of few testimonies to literary resistance in the Third Reich.

He went on to write poems, novels and essays, including impressions of America and Russia entitled respectively *Der schielende Löwe* (The Squinting Lion) and *Die Puppen in der Puppe* (The Dolls in the Doll).

Ingeborg Wilutzky

(Der Tagesspiegel, 14 January 1982)

ARCHITECTURE

Making a 200-year-old point about the built environment

Munich's defenders of modern architecture have started a campaign with an ambitious exhibition entitled The Other Tradition.

The aim is to prove that even the conservative and neo-conservative Bavarian environment has for close to 200 years inspired a clear-cut and functional architecture.

The documentation — ably photographed by Sigrid Neubert and planned by Wend Fischer and Ote Aicher — begins with the beautiful early hothouses. Here, the charm of filigree blends with the technical elegance of engineering in a way that can only be called ideal.

But these creations of the early industrial era were still ornamented with neo-classical elements.

So were the halls of railway stations and trade fair palaces of the 19th century.

It was an attractive blend of truth and appearance. There was no trace of purism and bareness. Yet these buildings, factories, market halls and bridges were absolutely functional and structurally sound. They were even ahead of their age in many ways.

Things did not take a turn for the worse until this still young tradition of an architecture in keeping with the materials used and the function intended became endangered by the so-called historists.

The best of the heirs of the rational Age of Enlightenment were rightly angered by the cloaking of all buildings meant to impress, right down to mass tenements, with the feudalistic trappings of neo-Romanticism, neo-Gothicism, neo-Realism, neo-Classicism and all other eclectic isms that could be fitted in.

Art nouveau then successfully rebelled against this historic cloaking in architecture, leading in the 20th century to what became known as *Moderne Architektur* and *Neues Bauen*. With the latter, the word "Neues" (new) was capitalised to emphasise that it was meant programmatically.

The Munich show documents this "other tradition" with the outstanding Post Office buildings of the 1920s and the simple but appealing housing estates of the post-World War I era.

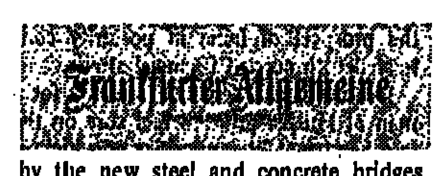
But even these examples show that the ideology of functionalism, which postulated that the form of a building must correspond exactly by the *Neues Bauen* movement . . . thank goodness.

The bold, curved facade of a past office has nothing to do with its function. The handling of letters and parcels can be done with equal efficiency in any box-like structure.

The fact is that the first of the modern architects of the era knew how to differentiate between form and substance and that they endowed the form of a building with a function of its own aesthetics.

The idea was to design shapes, create symbols and use architecture as a language. As a result, a curved post office could be taken as a symbol of movement and speed.

But there were also examples of identity of form and function – curiously enough this was particularly pronounced in the engineering sector, as exemplified



by the new steel and concrete bridges, curved ceilings of large halls and the concave cooling towers of power stations, all of which were convincing.

The fascinating thing about this is the beauty of economy of expression demonstrated by such structures. the adjectives that come to mind are transparent and economical aesthetics.

Up to this point, the Munich show conforms to the ideas expressed by the critics of post-1945 architecture who recognise the achievements of *Neues Bauen* architects but reject the opportunistic rationalism of the products of their grandchildren: their common, purely profit oriented container architecture, the faceless office monoliths and their monstrously cold department store buildings, congress centres, dormitory towns and university battleships.

It is only natural that those who have suffered 35 years of post-World War II architecture should reject it.

The organisers of the Munich show do not agree on all points. They stress the choice, quality-conscious individual products of modern architecture, of which there are scattered examples. They show Günther Behnisch's much lauded Olympic Stadium and the well kept "containers" of the European Patent Office.

But these exceptions only prove that such high quality buildings are not the rule.

Unfortunately, even this misshapen modern architecture of today can to some extent fall back on the fathers of *Neues Bauen*. They have mindlessly adopted their recipes and programmes and totally denatured them.

The justified call at the time for a "loose" city — neatly separated into such functions as living, producing, trade and recreation — with tall buildings and with much hygienically-sterile green between one place and the next was eagerly adopted in our era and then thoughtlessly realised — one dimensionally.

The result was the city planning of today, with its total disregard for scale and human needs.

But this type of city planning was profitable for those who owned the real estate and exploited it out of all proportion, giving the architects concerned an opportunity to engage in image-building on a grand scale.

No matter with how many monumentally expressive gestures they endowed their colossal toys (for example: Berlin's huge *Märkisches Viertel* housing complex), these structures remained "cages for human material" denied the satisfaction of the most elementary psychological needs.

Heedless of these needs, the architects scattered buildings with between 400 and 700 housing units indiscriminately without regard for the people who would have to live in them: brutal Cyclops poetry.

Who cares about what people really need? They need understandable proportions, a haven, internal and external space that fires the imagination, small alleys, yards and squares along an axis that is askew. They need both distance and a meeting point, privacy and a public sphere (for example, arcades).

They also need sensible layouts for housing units, adequate protection from noise and the possibility of withdrawing into niches where they can develop and cater to their personal needs. They need decentralised shopping facilities for their daily requirements; in other words: the baker round the corner rather than in the distant artificial shopping centre.

A humane type of city planning should try to provide a blend of all urban functions and open spaces for play, games and person-to-person contact. It should be organised with lo[...] identification traits.

What the standardised and dem[...] chaos lacks are fixed points to act [as] memory pegs: a city with a face inst[ead] of the look-alike city in which com[merce] rules supreme.

This has been excluded from the Munich show. It therefore lacks self-criticism and perspective which is only provided in the intelligent and analytic introduction Jürgen Habermas wrote for the catalogue.

The show will remain open throughout this year. It is housed in the ne[w] premises of the *Bayerische Rückversicherung* — a building which is itself one of Munich's best examples of the "other tradition".

In his introduction, Habermas deals at length with the alternatives to modern architecture, among them: the la[test] variant of the rekindled "historism" which playfully adorns the harshness of modern facades with ancient "quotations"; the ironic school which makes mock of our technological world with bits and pieces of history.

On example in the case of a ventilation shaft been adorned in Palladian Renaissance style.

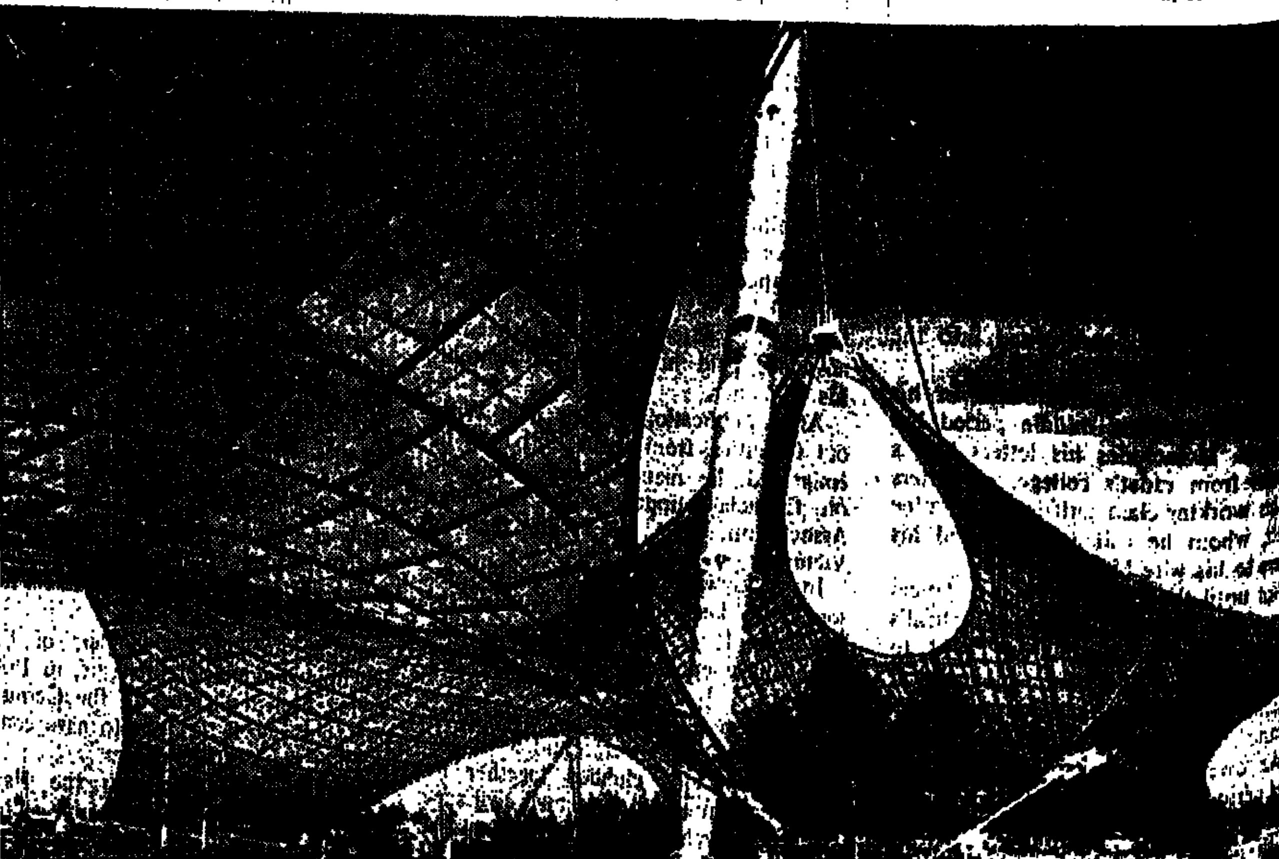
Habermas also mentions those who have opted out of society and have devised their own architecture without architects — as a symbol of their utopian return to a pre-industrial world.

Unlike the exhibition that he introduces, Habermas sees no future chance for a self-renewing functional architecture.

He writes: "The opposition to modernity contains a kernel of truth: it seizes upon unsolved problems that have placed modern architecture in question. What I mean is the colonisation of the world in which we live through the imperative of economic and administrative systems that lead a life of their own.

"We can learn from this opposition only if we bear one thing in mind: at a fortuitous moment, the aesthetic assertion constructivism casually [ties] up with functionalism. Tradition[s live] only by virtue of such moments. [And] this also applies to that which, from a Munich vantage point, has crystallised [as] the 'other tradition'." *Peter M. Bode*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 January 1982)



The Olympic Stadium in Munich . . . 'a rare example of quality in the modern era.' (Photo: Catalogue)

RESEARCH

The little bugs that give modern chemistry its big punch

Microbes have become a focal point of modern chemistry and biochemistry.

They can be used to solve extremely complicated problems involving the synthesis of organic substances and decontaminating the environment.

That is why the fact that Germany's official microbe bank has been recognised internationally is important.

The bank, DMS, was founded in Göttingen in 1969. Its recognition now means that it can store bacteria and fungi for international use.

There are several similar organisations in various countries all of which operate under a treaty signed in Budapest in 1977.

The treaty ensures that the microbes are properly controlled.

Why are these collections necessary? Because they supply industry, universities, other research organisations and schools.

Most research and industrial laboratories have limited collections.

They also have a public trust function: they hold all patented microbes and keep on file all patents that are in any way connected with production processes using microbes.

Bone of contention over patenting

The patenting of microbes is a bone of contention.

The German Patent Court has ruled that the patenting of these natural organisms is valid.

Despite this, microbiologists still disagree on whether there should be a change.

In the United States, the Supreme Court has ruled that only genetically engineered micro-organisms can be patented.

In keeping with the ruling, the US Patent Office had to issue a patent for a genetically engineered organism although it had previously refused to do so; and it took a long legal struggle to settle the dispute.

The patented American bacterium is a strain that resulted from the genetic splicing of several other strains.

The inventor had identified the genes in four other types of bacteria that enable these micro-organisms to process carbohydrate combinations.

By splicing the genes into a single bacterium he created a superstrain that could be used to combat oil pollution because it completely absorbs crude oil.

The star among its microbes on deposit at DMS is the *lactobacillus bavarius*, the only one patented in Germany so far.

It was granted to Eden Waren GmbH in Bad Soden only after a long legal dispute.

The bacillus is a rigid stick with a thickness of about 1/1,000th of a millimetre and a length of between 3/1,000th and 5/1,000th of a millimetre.

The patented bacillus ferments sugar, converting it into a type of lactic acid used in the canning of certain vegetables.

The company researchers' breakthrough came when they succeeded in isolating from hundreds of wild or semi-wild *lactobacillus* strains one particular strain that produces optimal quantities of lactic acid at temperatures of less than 10 deg. C.

When the temperature drops below this level, the other microbes used in this process produce a different type of acid.

The patented bacillus is, however, no man-made living creature but simply a previously unknown strain of *lactobacilli*.

DMS was originally a part of the Society for Radiation and Environment Research in Neuherberg near Munich. In 1979 it became an independent department of the Brunswick-based Society for Biotechnological Research.

Microbe collections have been in existence since the beginning of this century. The first one was established in Prague but was shut down by the authorities.

After the Second World War when biotechnology experienced a boom in the industrial world (largely due to the discovery that certain strains of mildew fungi had antibiotic properties), it became increasingly important to conserve useful microbes to make their genetic material available for cultivation.

Researchers and commercial enterprises can order from DMS several million microbes in return for a licence fee. They are despatched neatly packaged in special glass tubes.

In 1980, universities and research organisations ordered 1,596 cultures; 751 were ordered by industry and 195 by various schools.

The world's largest service collection is the American Type Culture Collection which has some 35,000 strains of microbes.

But apart from this and another American collection there are, scattered throughout the world, many small service collections that specialise in specific strains. Britain and Japan each have about half a dozen. There are also some in Holland, France and in East Bloc countries.

The Budapest treaty governs "internationally recognised repositories for micro-organisms for the purpose of patenting."

The treaty, which now includes countries like Liechtenstein and the Philippines, ensures proper care of microbes.

The DMS team of 17 is headed by the bacteriologist Dieter Claus. It ensures that the deposited micro-organisms are kept alive and keeps the collection up to date.

As microbiology expands in this country, the tide of deposited micro-organisms grows faster: 700 new strains were added in 1980 alone to the existing stock of about 4,000.

Some two-fifths of the micro-organisms on deposit are fungi; the rest are bacteria. Only a very few of the trillions of microbes in the collection (several billion of each strain are kept) lead normal lives and must be fed constantly with nutrients. Some must be transplanted to new nutrient solutions, either daily, weekly or monthly.

It is these micro-organisms that pose the biggest problems because no suitable way of permanent conservation has been found.

As a rule, the organisms on deposit are frozen and kept dormant. This is done at temperatures of -40 deg. C to -50 deg. C in a process known as lyophilization. Others are kept in liquid nitrogen at temperatures of -196 deg. C.

A few fungi lend themselves to easy conservation in glycerine at temperatures of -20 deg. C.

The simple and safe method of keeping micro-organisms dormant in liquid nitrogen also has its drawbacks. If a customer needs a strain of micro-organisms preserved in this way they must be revitalised. But this term is not quite accurate inasmuch as the organisms remain alive at -196 deg. It is only their metabolism that is suspended in this state.

The revitalisation is necessary because the glass tubes in which these billions of cells are hibernating contain traces of glycerine or dimethylsulfoxide to prevent the formation of ice crystals.

The crystals would destroy the cell membranes and the cultures would die.

When the tube with the culture is taken out of the liquid nitrogen bath and warmed to room temperature to enable laboratory technicians to remove the needed quantity of microbes, these substances could easily poison the remaining micro-organisms.

As a result, the entire culture must undergo a complicated revitalisation process only to enable the technician to remove a few million cells.

In future, the microbes will therefore be kept in predetermined "packages" ready for despatch if current experiments prove that this would noticeably reduce the amount of work involved.

Some 300 strains of the micro-organisms in the collection are on deposit in connection with patents, the first ones having been lodged in 1974.

The patents must be such that they can at any time be reconstructed. This is only possible if a bacterium or a fungus is kept available in its original form (without changes through environmental influences, genetic mutation and similar occurrences) during the 30-year validity of the patent. *Arne Henningsen*

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 15 January 1982)

Probe into industrial toxins and the unborn child

Normal tolerance levels to poisons at the workplace do not apply to pregnant women.

According to the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) there are no accurate guides to protect the unborn baby from toxic substances.

The problem is that not enough research has been made into how the foetus is affected by poisons in industry.

A DFG team is trying to find out. It will eventually submit its findings together with practical recommendations.

A list of tolerance levels is published every year.

The 1981 list for the first time includes biological tolerance levels based on the concentration of toxic substances in the urine, the blood and the air expelled by the lungs.

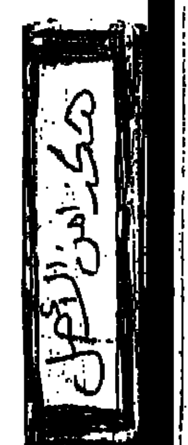
To start with, the DFG determined the tolerance levels for three substances in this way: lead, trichloroethane and toluol.

The maximum tolerance levels for anilin, carbon monoxide and dichlormethane have been reduced.

Eight substances were newly included: atracine, p-tert-butylphenol, dalapon, fenthion, glutaraldehyde, natrium acid, nitrogen hydric acid and trimellit acid hydride.

Permitted levels of carcinogenic substances have generally been reduced. New substances suspected of causing cancer have been added. *dpa/fwt*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 January 1982)



■ SOCIETY

Retirement comes, and with it a crisis for many who want to work on

Retirement can cause a crisis for people used to leading an active life.

Wives complain about husbands turning into tyrants and naggers after they have retired.

Some experts say that half the Germans who retire go through some sort of deep crisis.

The fact is that many people who have to take a "well deserved rest" don't want to rest, whether it is well deserved or not.

Now the problem is getting more recognition and there are organisations specialising in helping people adjust to the new life.

Some larger firms also run adjustment courses, notably BMW, the Bavarian car maker.

A Cologne sociologist, Helga Herrmann, dealt with retirement in BMW's personnel department from 1975 to 1980.

She says: "Since work means fulfilment for most people because it ensures their social position and prestige, the end of the working life is seen by them as a personal catastrophe.

BMW was one of the first German companies to run seminars for older staff members. The company uses a rest home in the Tyrol.

Frau Herrmann: "The first groups that arrived were full of scepticism. But this soon changed."

The BMW approach has been adopted by other big companies. Local councils, trade unions and church organisations also have schemes.

Frau Herrmann points out that large companies have an advantage over smaller ones because of cost.

Aviation firm Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) for example pays DM10,000 for each group of 20 future pensioners.

The city of Nuremberg set the pace among councils by running the first local government course.

In Munich, two organisations have adopted a new approach to the problem: the *Volkshochschule* (VHS), an adult education organisation, and the *Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband* (PWV), a welfare organisation.

Both offer retirement seminars as service packages for companies.

Among their customers are Bayerische Vereinsbank and Siemens.

A PWV seminar for 40 Siemens workers at the Hotel Berghof in Furth im Wald cost DM400 for couples and DM260 for singles.

The seminar was headed by PWV manager Bernhard Uffrecht who says: "I do this as a hobby."

He came to his hobby through an incident just before Christmas when a sprightly lady came to his office, asking him to get her a place in an old people's home as soon as possible.

Uffrecht: "I asked her if she wanted the place for her mother and she told me it was for herself."

The woman was only 60 and had retired a few weeks earlier. She didn't know what to do with herself and felt superfluous.

Her friends started avoiding her and she found herself "on the scrapheap." Old contacts were severed and she thought that only an old people's home could provide her with a haven.

VHS department head Peter Schraud tells of one man did not even tell his wife when he retired. He pretended to go to his office regularly.

"He was simply unable to cope with no longer having to perform his usual tasks," says Schraud.

In cooperation with the Munich Welfare Department, Schraud has meanwhile developed an approach that has been adopted by the Bonn Family Affairs Ministry.

He is now planning another seminar for employees of Bayerische Vereinsbank which is to begin early this year.

The pivotal points of these seminars are such questions as: "What must I do to stay healthy?" "How can I get into a new pattern of life?" "How can I come to terms with my new status as a pensioner?" "What about money and my present home?" and above all "What meaning is there to the life that still remains to me?"

Fear of death is common.

Post-retirement living is not necessarily approached with the attitude of: "Now I can devote myself completely to my stamp collection;" or "Now I can travel at last;" or "What bliss to be left in peace."

This approach is only good for a few months, when it provides a sort of surrogate satisfaction.

Schraud says it is not enough for companies to offer their staff brief courses like, say, for an hour after work.

"What matters is for the participants to be away from their normal work routine. This is best achieved through seminars that extend over several days and are held far away from home — preferably together with the spouse. After all, it is never just the one partner who retires."

Schraud tries to impart new physical, intellectual and spiritual impulses. This is done through group discussions, relaxation exercises, massage, sport and celebrations with self-prepared meals that are out of the ordinary.

Films, lectures and discussions with doctors, psychologists, social workers and pension advisers all help. The whole thing is topped with a lot of dancing.

Schraud likes to begin with what he calls the string game. He takes a ball of string and hands the end to one of the participants who has to introduce himself and then pass the end on to his neighbour from whom he wants to know more than just his name.

The string keeps changing hands, with everybody holding on to it, until the ball is unwound and the string winds up in a mess like in a bird's nest.

But there is a sound purpose to the game. It helps overcome shyness with strangers.

In another game, people bring along childhood photographs which are all dumped in a pot. Everybody picks one photo. His task is to recognise the person as he is today, 60 years later.

The objective is to make new friends and acquaintances, which requires opening up.

Another variation is the refuse game in which old yoghurt cups, bits of fabric and pieces of paper are used to make something.

Some people put these bits together to make the picture of a "happy couple", others turn them into a garden or a travel brochure. The end product usual reflects some wishful thinking.

Comments Schraud: "This shows t se people that they are clever and t they can do things they have never do before."

Another part of the seminar is to out the new way of life. Men act t perennial vacationer while women sh that reality is quite different: they stuck with the housework.

At the seminar far from home it i easier to voice wishes: the women w their husbands to do more than ju wander around the kitchen. They exp them to lend a hand.

They also do not want them to co tinue going to the pub or the bowl alley alone.

Men, on the other hand, would li their wives to be more than just coo and chars. They want them to co along on a walk through the city or picnic. Both are encouraged to expr their wishes and to devote more time each other.

Many pensioners who have attend these seminars later decide to help oth senior citizens. Some help schoolchi dren with their homework.

People who held executive positio during their working lives are partic problem cases.

"Having spent their lives orderi others around, they find it hard to com to terms with the fact that there is n body left to do their bidding," sa Schraud.

As a result, they are the trouble ca at the seminars — especially when i comes to group training.

Professor August Sahm, who prepa courses for MBB, and his psychothe pist wife are trying to overcome dis. This year they will hold a semina e clusively for top executive perso where they can be sure that they n not have to rub shoulders with t doorman.

Wulf Petzold

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsb 17 January 1982)

The German Family 'still a hale institution'

The German Family, that entity thought to have come to grief over the years, is still very healthy.

Contrary to popular belief, The Family has neither deteriorated nor lost its significance.

It is also not disintegrating. But, just as life has changed so has The Family undergone something of a transformation.

But, have these changes placed it in jeopardy? That is the question sociologist Professor Rosemarie Nave-Herz of Oldenburg University seeks to answer in a report.

Quite appropriately, the report is called: "Changes in the Family Structure in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1950 to the Present."

Her conclusions: families have become continuously smaller (in 1964 there were 18.2 births per 1,000 citizens; in 1980 there were 10.1).

It is also true that more young people live together without a marriage certificate; but this does not mean that an intact family has lost any of its value.

Some 84 per cent of men and 87 per cent of women between 35 and 40 are married. And most marriages are still first marriages (86 per cent) for both partners.

Most families have one to two children; and 92.3 per cent of the children still grow in families with both parents (only 7.7 per cent of German families with children under 18 are incomplete; 2.6 per cent due to the death of one parent).

And most married women still do not have jobs, though 40 per cent of women with children under 15 have either part- or full-time work.

The public rarely takes note of positive aspects. Yet there are plenty of them, says Professor Nave-Herz.

The increased number of working women has not only led to a higher GNP but also to higher family incomes, enabling couples to make more of their lives.

The partnership attitude among couples has led to better companionship; and the attitude towards the children has become more comradely — perhaps because families have become smaller.

Surveys show that 53 per cent of German husbands discuss their affairs with their wives (compared with 37 per cent in 1953).

And 47 per cent of husbands discuss political issues (1953: 19 per cent). For 65 per cent of them, the wife is the most important discussion partner.

When it comes to child rearing, today's couples attach more importance to the child's free expression of its wishes than to obedience.

Girls in particular have profited from the changes in families. They are now increasingly encouraged to get the be possible vocational training.

The former attitude that girls need training because they would get mar has been almost eradicated. Half t students at secondary schools are g and they account for 40 per cent of versity students.

Housing, which is an integral part a harmonious family life, is still a pr lem. But the ratio of couples who co sider their homes "much too small dropped from 20 per cent in 1953 to per cent in 1979.

Moreover, 38 per cent of families wi children under 18 own their homes.

In 76.6 per cent of the families wi one child, this child has a room of it own. With families that have four more children, the figure drops to per cent.

The family will continue to chan partnership relations between marr couples will intensify and the old dis bution of roles will gradually change.

The fact that young people who liv together as a sort of dry run eventual go to the registrar after all proves th even they hold the family in high e teem.

G. Herbst

(Mannheimer Morgen, 9 January 1982)

■ MODERN LIVING

The serendipity of the flea market —or the joys of buying junk

Thousands trudge through the mud as the sleet gathers on polished dining tables, gleaming pre-World War I German Army helmets, rusting pots, imitation bronze figurines in cast zinc, unspeakably ugly vases, mountains of picture frames and piles of musty-smelling books.

The dealers can count themselves lucky if they arrived the night before, slept in their vans and were able to set up their stalls indoors in the fairground marquees huddled close together.

Inside, the public shuffle past the wares, happy to be out of the cold. But the overriding smell is suggestive of someone having hidden a dripping wet hyena underneath the jumble.

That was what it was like at the Christmas flea market, jumble sale or junk fair (take your pick) on an open-air site in Düsseldorf.

It was one of 55 flea markets held all over Germany on the day: definitely 55 and probably 100 or more. The flea market has caught on like a house on fire.

One catalogue of commercial flea market organisers lists 62 names and addresses. Additions are constantly being made.

The list names names and telephone numbers of people who make a living from arranging flea markets in disused *racetracks*, the back rooms of village bars, empty flower auction halls and school gyms.

It also often lists the footage they charge stallholders. The flea market organisers are the men and women whose initiative has brought German junk where it is today.

The buying public, on the lookout for something old to decorate the home, as so often mentioned in the homemaking sections of newspapers and magazines, could easily emerge as tomorrow's stallholders.

With stalls for hire at DM25 to DM30 per metre, the step is not such a drastic one.

Is it nostalgia that sends people to the junk markets in droves? The word is certainly used at the drop of a hat to account for the popularity of yesterday's cast-offs.

Art deco and 30s having arguably qualified as antiques, there presumably has to be some explanation why people buy 50s-style coffee tables or the radiator grills of cars that were still on the roads only a year or two ago.

Are they maybe an investment? Well, just possibly. That, at least, is what readers of trade magazines are led to believe.

One magazine, *Raritäten-Magazin Sammelsurium*, reports on three pages of editorial matter sandwiched between 35 pages of adverts:

"Art auction: A set of 12 tubular steel chairs manufactured by Desta, Berlin, in 1931 went for DM80,000. And that was only the start. A luxury bed that once belonged to the fourth-richest man in India sold for a fantastic DM250,000."

So do people really expect to buy an unsuspected Rubens for a song at the flea market? Do they hope to buy as a worthless kitchen chair what turns out to be a Hepplewhite that has seen better days?

Do dealers have visions of an old man

DIE WELT

shakily pulling out of his pocket a silver snuff box dark with age and with an inscription by Frederick the Great?

Do they envisage him diffidently handing over the family heirloom for an estimate and looking delighted to learn that the dealer would do him a favour by giving him DM50 for it?

Whatever the expectations, flea markets are colourful events, and the growing conviction some people have that their old junk might just be priceless makes them even more colourful.

Without too much difficulty the visitor to flea markets can find out what his own junk is worth. As soon as beer mats became collector's pieces flea market stallholders started printing cyclostyled price lists for them.

Until recently old stocks and share certificates were little more than waste paper at the junk dealer's. Flea markets have helped to make them a marketable commodity.

Some of them are rather attractive etchings, although one cannot help feeling dealers with cellars full of them made a killing by pushing them as objets d'art.

Before unloading their stocks they will doubtless have hinted that if the price were right they might be prepared to part company with really scarce specimens.

The Antique Dealers' Association takes a dim view of this competition. Initially, says Manfred Paschke, a lawyer and the association's business manager, flea market organisers were taken to court and actions were won.

One organiser was forbidden by court order to advertise his flea markets as art and antique fairs or to refer to the class of goods on sale as "middle-class antiques."

After having won such cases in court the association has, however, come to realise that the flea market circus is aimed at a class of customer altogether different from the clients serious antique dealers are interested in.

Herr Paschke regrets that flea markets take purchasing power out of the market as a whole and, for people who have never had anything to do with the trade, create a bad impression.

People tend to confuse the junk dealer with the serious dealer in antiques, which reflects badly on the trade.

The association tried at one stage to persuade consumer associations to support its claim to represent the serious antique trade, but the attempt has now been abandoned.

It was hard work, says Herr Paschke, and no-one was at all grateful. Anton Schäfer, a leading flea market organiser, takes a dim view of the antique dealers' bids to put a spoke in his wheel, that is for sure.

Herr Schäfer, who used to work as a haulier, rents entire halls and sites for his flea markets and circularises between 500 and 600 vendors to let them know when his fairs are held.

He has now been prohibited by court order from using as his slogan "the largest international top-flight junk market."

Yet what his vendors offered for sale was invariably examined with keen interest by antique dealers who turned up, he claims.

This, he says, is hardly surprising. At his fairs you could pick up a Gallée vase for DM400 that was later marked up to DM2,000 in a dealer's window.

At one fair he had organised a junk dealer had even put on sale one of only two surviving swords of justice used by Charlemagne.

Yet flea market dealers were often poorly treated by local authorities. Before every fair he has to submit a police certificate of good conduct and a certified copy of his trader's licence.

Before permission to hold the flea market was given, even local chambers of commerce and industry had been asked whether they had any objections to the event.

Herr Schäfer says he took a correspondence course in antiques before taking up his new profession. He used to spend up to DM15,000 on advertising before each flea market was held.

He still hires a night watchman and guard dog to keep an eye on exhibits when fairs last two days over the weekend. Then there is the cost of electricity, heating and insurance.

But he is obviously still operating at a profit, even though he says there are 200 other operators running flea markets, not to mention the local authorities that now run flea markets of their own.

It must also be borne in mind that an alleged 50 per cent of stallholders run junk shops of their own when they are not on the road.

Is everything that is on sale genuinely old? It is increasingly often claimed that new merchandise is not allowed to be offered for sale, but the distinction can be subtle.

There are antique factories that manufacture the best-selling lines at knockdown prices, but you would only notice the fact if you were to see half a dozen soldier's beer mugs from the days of Kaiser Wilhelm side by side.

By a not so strange coincidence they will all appear to have belonged to and record the exploits of a Private Meyer.

As for the old brass car horns that seem to be flooding the market, they are extremely recent imports from Pakistan. Otherwise the rubber of their hooters would have to be virtually indestructible.

The magazine *Sammler-Journal* and its growing small ads section testifies impressively to the flea market business in Germany.

Editor Hans Jürgen Hansen, an art historian who works for a Munich publisher, began with a few pages of cut-rate advertisements in a free sheet 10 years ago.

In 1973 the magazine was relaunched as a collector's tabloid. Interviews with matchbox collectors are dealt with as seriously as an interview with the managing director of Christie's in London.

A few years later, when the print run had increased to 30,000, he tried a little market research, having previously imagined that his handiwork was read mainly by old folk who were nostalgic for a past that was in part their own.

He was mistaken. Half his readership turned out to be under 35.

The December 1981 issue had 100 pages, including 52 pages of advertising, with numbers steadily increasing, Hansen says.

Goods for sale include "new and new-old brass lines," cap badge catalogues and an original dynamo from a 1925 vintage Wanderer car.

But most ads announce details of forthcoming flea markets, and if they are any guide there cannot be many more spots on the map of the Federal Republic of Germany that are still marked white where flea markets are concerned.

One recent advertiser who organises flea markets carries an aerial view of the Rhein-Ruhr Zentrum in Mülheim, near Essen.

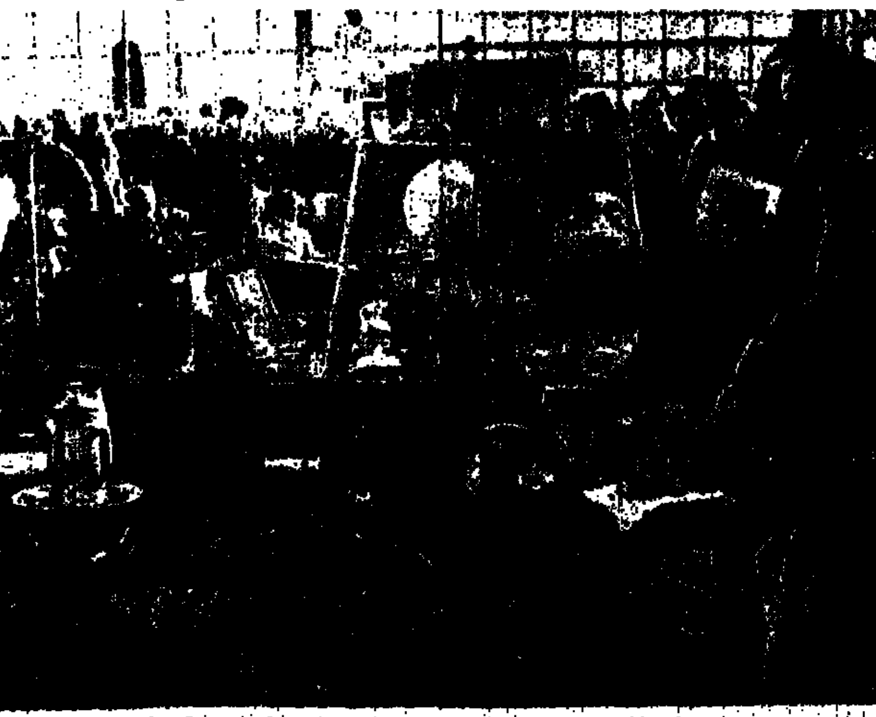
His flea market has 4,000 square metres, or a complete acre, of covered stall space, unlimited uncovered space, 300 full-size bill hoardings to advertise the fair in nearby areas, 200 bills posted in the western Ruhr and advertising campaigns of various kinds.

"Turnover!!!" he claims, "That's What It Means. Make Yourself The Killing Of the Year!"

The Brockhaus Encyclopaedia has a word for it: *Trödel* (junk): Usually small-scale trade but trading in used items can also occur on a large scale.

Eberhard Nitschke

(Die Welt, 9 January 1982)



Not Steptoe's living room, but a flea market in Hamburg. (Photo: dpa)